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LETTERS

ADDRESSED FROM LONDON

TO

SIR JOSEPH WILLIAMSON

WHILE

PLENIPOTENTIARY AT THE CONGRESS OF COLOGNE

IN THE YEARS 1673 AND 1674.

EDITED BY W. D. CHRISTIE, C.B.,

AUTHOR OF THE LIFE OF THE FIRST EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOLUME II.

PRINTED FOR THE CAMDEN SOCIETY

M.DCCC.LXXIV.

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WESTMINSTER:
PRINTED BY J. B. NICHOLS AND SONS,
25, PARLIAMENT STREET.

[NEW SERIES IX.]

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LETTERS

ADDRESSED TO

SIR JOSEPH WILLIAMSON.

No. 97.—From Henry Ball.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, Sept. 1, 1673.

Since my last on Fryday, very little of moment has happened; the coffee-houses and from them the people continue their too open hate to the French, and discourse of them with the greatest contempt imaginable; and they say the Prince is so angry that he will not goe with them out againe; and a letter is published in manuscript about Town pretended to be writt by Mons. Martell to the French King, not only in his own defence for fighting without orders, but accuseing the Comte d'Estrees of all the miscarriage,[1] so that the French men now that lately were so briske in defence of the Vice Admirall say that without doubt the Comte will be called home and seemingly punished, for the business is too open to be concealed, and without it the league and union between the two Kings may be in danger, because there are dayly quarrells with the English and French seamen wherever they meete. The King they say should say openly in discourse of it, that if it were no foule play, it was a very great miscarrage and that he would not justifye the action at

[1] M. Martel's account of the battle was suppressed in Paris, but it got to England, and was printed. It concluded thus: "If Count D'Estrées would have fallen in with a fair wind upon De Ruyter and Bankert, at their first engaging, when in numbers they much exceeded the Prince, they must of necessity have been inclosed between his Highness and D'Estrées, and so the enemy would have been entirely defeated." The form was not gone through, as Mr. Ball thought likely, of punishing D'Estrées; M. Martel was sent to the Bastile.

all. This does indeed so inflame the people that every apple-woman makes it a proverbe, Will you fight like the French? and the inclosed Advice to a Painter,[1] ingeniously writt and cryed up extreamly when but touching gently upon that string, and bought up so fast that I could not gett two of them.

As yet wee cannot heare who will goe to sea, nor when the Fleete will goe out; the latter end of this weeke his Majesty goes to see them, and to-morrow Mr. Vernon goes in the Fanfan to see about makeing preparations for his Duke,[2] who now certainly goes, but in what quality he knowes not yet. It's the generall question asked now, Who goes to sea? and they say it was all these three dayes past debated in Councell, and as yet not published who. The Prince is much adored by the people, and cheifly, it's thought, for his hatred to the French, but all say his Highness wants that which makes a happy Commander, success, for though all his actions have been performed with as great gallantry as possibly could be, yet as yet they have not been prosperous. These and such like are the politique discourses of the Towne, which, in obedience to your Ex^cies^ command therein, I adventure to present. Among our Commanders too it seemes there is some difference and emulation, they dayly quarrelling; and particularly last Satturday at Deale, Capt. Coleman and Capt. Pointz, who landed there and two mile off fought a duell, upon words between them about the fight, the first of which has received so many wounds that they much feare his life, but the other no hurt att all; and Major Darrell from Sherness sayes that some of the French soldiers coming into that isle, the seamen and people so

[1] The poem here referred to is one ascribed to Andrew Marvell, his "Advice to a Painter." This passage fixes the date of the poem, which the Rev. Mr. Grosart leaves in doubt. The references in the poem to the projected marriage of the Duke of York clearly show that the poem was published in the autumn of 1673. But a line mentioning Lord Danby, as it has been usually printed, would require that the poem were published at least a year later, as Osborne was not made Earl of Danby till June 1674. The line in question has been usually printed, "With Father Patrick, Danby, and with Teague." Talbot should be substituted for Danby, which is unquestionably wrong: Talbot is in the edition of 1689.

[2] Duke of Monmouth.

houted them, that he was faine to place a guard upon them, as he is forced upon all of them that come ashoare, to secure them from the people's fury, and is therefore fearfull of some hurt will be done among them. Our seamen are not much for fighting any more this summer, for feare that the White Squadron [1] should beare them company againe, and this ill blood is run so farr now, that it's the trouble of all sober people to see it. Our Camp at Yarmouth is, they say, brooke up, and yesterday came to towne the Earl of Mulgrave about orders how to dispose his men into their winter quarters.

Yester morning dyed here Dr. Perincheefe,[2] one of the Prebends of Westminster; his Prebendary is given to Dr. Coleburne,[3] the Sub-Deane of his Majestyes Chappell. This morning his Majesty went by water to Woolwich to see the prize ship opened, and returned att noone. This morning marcht hence for France the 36 Gentlemen drawn out of the Horse Guards to recruite my Lord Duras [4] troope. Sir Jonathan Atkins is they say to goe Governor to Barbadoes in my Lord Willoughbyes roome, whose body is not yet come from Kinsale, from whence my Lord had this day a letter of the 23. past, that sayed then the whole Fleete of East Indya ships were still there wayting only for a wind, which since wee hope they have had, and that they may by the next be arrived safely at Plymouth. The apprehensions of Tromp's being off of the Goodwin being now vanished, and the mistake found to be some of our frigatts that were coming into the Downes, but from Boston this daye's letter said that on Fryday last past in sight of them to the northward a fleete of men of warr of 30 sayle, but what they were they could not

[1] The French.

[2] Richard Perrincheif, D.D.

[3] Richard Colebrand, D.D. See Cheque Book of the Chapel Royal, edit. Rimbault, p. 216. (Le Neve's Fasti, edit. Hardy, iii. 361.)

[4] Louis Duras, a Frenchman, brother of the Duc de Duras, married the elder of two daughters of Sir George Sondes, Bart., of Lees Court, near Feversham, who was in 1676 created Earl of Feversham. Duras, who became naturalized, was created Lord Duras of Holdenby, and on the death of his father-in-law in 1677 he succeeded by a special provision in the patent to the Earldom of Feversham.

then tell, which are supposed Tromp gone that way to fetch some other ships they still expect. A malitious and idle report run about yesterday that the seamen had remonstranized against going to sea with the French any more, and that some eminent Commanders headed them, but I have inquired strictly after it of some knowing persons, but can heare nothing of it, and hope it a great mistake.

His Royall Highnesses marriage is said to be at a stand,[1] and Spaine seemingly pretending a marriage with her to breake it off with us, but my Lord Sunderland's letter from Paris sayes that the Marquis d'Anjou was gone into Italy to assist at the solemnity of the marriage (if it went on), and was to doe it as a daughter of France, and that it was given out that the King gave her 400,000 livres towards part of her portion. People now dispaire of peace, though they wish it extreamly, coales being now the apprehension of the Towne, for the capers all along the coast makes it very unsafe to bring them. All hope that, if Spaine does breake with France, that wee need not, and that his Majesty will make his own termes, having now good reason; and this is the Citty discourse.

Mr. Sydney Godolphin[2] and divers young gentlemen have proffered their service to wayte on the Duke of Monmouth to sea, and many of them will really goe. Sir Edward Spragg's funerall is to be solemnized as the Earle of Sandwiche's was by barges, and

[1] Several previous letters have announced the suppression of the negotiations for the marriage. The young Princess was extremely disinclined to marriage, and wished to lead a religious life. When the Earl of Peterborough saw her to propose the marriage, she refused, and entreated the Earl to use his influence with the Duke of York to lead him to think of some one else, even in her own family. Her resistance was at last overcome by a brief from the Pope addressed to her. Another difficulty arose out of a demand by the Pope for a public chapel for her in England. Bishop Burnet says: "Because those at Rome were not willing to consent, unless she might have a public chapel, which the Court would not hearken to, another marriage was proposed for a daughter of the Duke of Crequi."—(Own Time, i. 353.) See Letter 104, of September 8.

[2] Sydney Godolphin, third son of Sir Francis Godolphin, became Earl of Godolphin, and a famous minister, in the reigns of William and Anne. He began his political career as a Lord of the Treasury in 1679.

no other difference but one barge less, and none of them covered with velvett, and the King's servants to attend itt.

Since your Ex^cyes departure wee have never scarse had the Gazette d'a la maine [1] from Paris, Mr. Perwich, I suppose, sending it to my Lord directly. It would be now and then very usefull, and Mr. Petitt proferring a gentleman at Paris that for some newes sent weekely in French to him he will send it to your Ex^cy constantly, I have gott my Lord's leave to receive it of him, and, if your Ex^cy approves of it, I will send to him in French, but with the same caution and circumspection as wee doe to him at Brusselles. This I presume to acquaint your Ex^cy, because I will never doe any thing but what your Ex^cy shall thinke fitt and command, and I most humbly beg your Ex^cyes pardon for my presumption if you approve it not.

The inclosed Sir Robert Carr commanded me to present your Ex^cy. My Lady O'Bryan being gone out when I went this evening to receive her Honor's commands, I could do nothing but leave my name, and that I should expect her Ladyshipp's orders at the office. All your Ex^cyes family are well, and nothing, I thanke God, happened amisse yet. I dare not longer trouble your Ex^cy. I most humbly beg your Ex^cy will be pleased to continue me in the list of, may it please your Ex^cy,

Your Ex^cyes most obedient servants,

R ½½. HENRY BALL.

No. 98.—FROM THOMAS POVEY. [2]

My Lord, Whitehall, Sept. 1, 1673.

It being now publickly discoursed, though not yet declared, that such preparations are made heere on your behalf, that when your

[1] Gazette d'Allemayne. *Almain* was the current English word for Germany.

[2] A Member of Parliament, who had held several minor offices, which he had lost by bad management, and in which he had been succeeded by Samuel Pepys. He is frequently mentioned both by Pepys and Evelyn.

Ex^cie shall return from your Embasie you shall be received into the place and dignitie of Secretarie of Estate, an advancement which you know I have long wished and expected would bee a reward to your virtue and your industrie, I am advised and encoraged to address myself to you with a request, that you will please to reserve yourself in transferring your lesser office of Clerk of the Councell, untill you shall have admitted mee to treate with you therein; not that I presume soe much upon your former friendshipp or any little services I have bin able or willing to doe you in our many yeares acquaintance, as to suppose you should gratifie mee to any condescentions to your disadvantage, but that I may only have the favour of preferencie, it being not unlikely that I may come up to those conditions which you may thinke fitt to propose to your successor. I have, I confess, sometimes comforted myself with a beleife that the good will and power of my friends would before this time have recommended me to some advantageous station upon easyer tearmes then those upon which it may bee fitt for mee to expect your surrender. And I will not yet soe far distrust my better fortunes as not to hope that the passionat desires and endeavours I have had to serve others, even with neglect to myself, shall sometime or other bee considered, and some happy oportunitie be laied hold on for the improving my condition, especially if this succession I may bee putt in viewe and motion: having too long remaind in umbrage and unaction. I importune not the mediation of our noblest Lord in this overture, because it tends only to an equivalent, yet his lordship is soe far privie in this matter that I desire noe farther concession from you than you shall find agreeable and preferable in his Lordship, notwithstanding hee hath bin pressed to concern himself for others.

May your honours and your happiness encrease upon you as certainly as that I have bin, and am to be allwaies, my Lord,

Your Excellencies most humble and most faithfull servant,

THO. POVEY.

R $\frac{10}{20}$.

No. 99.—From Henry Oldenburg.[1]

My Lord, London, Sept. 2, 1673.

I presume it will be no very great interruption to your affaires, if I putt in a few lines of acknowledgement for the favor of yours of Aug. $\frac{19}{29}$, giving your Excellency my humble thanks for your sending away my papers to M. Slusius, who is one of our best correspondents in mathematical and other engenious matters, and who also hathe expresly a great esteem of his Majesties institution of the Royal Society; in the doing of which he concurs with the most eminent men in most part of the world; which, as it adds not a litle by the renown of England, now admired abroad above other nations for advancing experimental knowledge as well as academical learning, so I hope it will at length induce, at home, all that know what value to put upon vertu and knowledg to contribute to the support and encouragement of so excellent a foundation, whose aimes and ends are not only to discover more and more truth in natural, mathematical, and mechanical things, and to improve old inventions and contrive new ones; but also to engage and conjoine, by an incessant philosophical correspondence, the researches and labors of all sagacious and industrious men everywhere; whereby at length there may be accumulated into one stock the ingenuities of all considerable men and their various observations and experiments concerning Nature and Art, now scatter'd up and down in the world; for all which our England may be made the common repository or magazeen, to serve hereafter for materials to build a masculin and usefull philosophy upon. And this design and work I am persuaded your Excellency will, in compliance with your own genius, appear in due time an eminent promoter of, as well as you are a great favorer to academical studies; that so all kinds of semenaries and ways of learning and knowledg may goe hand in hand to make this nation floresh above all others. I am confident your Ex^{cy} will

[1] Secretary of the Royal Society.

pardon this excursion of my zeal, as I also pray that you would think on me and my labors when you shall be returned into England; for the safety of which return, as also for the good success of your grand negotiation, you have the cordial good wishes and prayers of,

Your Excellencyes very humble and faithfull servant,

OLDENBURG.

R $\frac{10}{20}$.

No. 100.—From Robert Yard.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 5 September, 1673.

Yesterday I received your Ex^cies^ of the 1 and 5 inst. with severall inclosed.

Wee have since my last been againe allarmed with a report which came from the Isle of Wight, that 30 Dutch men of warr were passed to the westward, which afterwards proved to be a fleet of English marchant men, who the day before sailed out of the Downes under the convoy of two or three men of warr, bound for severall places abroad; but this morneing by an expresse from Plimouth wee received the good news that the fleet from Kinsale was passed by Plimouth on Tuesday last, and about noone came another expresse from Portsmouth, giveing an account of their passing by the Isle of Wight yesterday, towards evening, so that it is not doubted but they are by this time in the Downs, and may in a very short time be in the river, the wind being very faire and a good gaile; for their convoy, they have with them 11 men of warr and one fireship.

It is now resolved that the Fleet shall goe out no more, but onely a winter squadron of about 30 frigatts, to be commanded by the Earle of Ossory in chief, Sir John Chichely Vice-Admirall, and Sir John Holmes Rear-Admirall. The Duke of Monmouth goes onely Captaine of the Swiftsure, though the common discourse is that it

is onely to prepare him for a generall command against the next spring, if the warr continue; for most are of opinion the Prince will goe no more to sea, and say that there is too strong a faction against him both at Court and in the Fleet.

In the meantime the Prince continues to justify himselfe as to the late engagement, and to blame the carriage of the French, haveing drawne up a narrative himselfe of the late fight, which I on Wednesday saw in his Secretary's hand, and being onely permitted to take a quick view of it, I can onely tell your Ex^cy^ that in it his Highness blames Sir Edward Spragg for haveing stayd for the Dutch, and, by engaging himselfe too farr, had putt the blew squadron into disorder; that Bankaert when he first bore up to the French had onely 8 men of warr with him, and that, so soone as the French tacked, [he] came downe againe and joyned De Ruyter, so that the whole Dutch Fleet in two bodies engaged our two squadrons. Monsieur Martell, it is said, sides with us, and condemns mightily the proceeding of the Count D'Estrées; he with another French man of warr left their squadron (or as some say was cutt of from them) and fell into the Blew, where they behaved themselves pretty well. The witts of the Towne tell us, that when the fight was done the Count D'Estrées sent for Martell, and told him when he came home he would have him hanged for dareing to hazard the King's ship. On Wednesday, in the evening, the Prince went downe to the Fleet to settle matters, and at his returne will cause, as I am told by Mr. Watkins, this narrative to be printed. I endeavoured in the meantime to gett a copy of it to send this night to your Ex^cy^ but could not. By a gentleman that came up yesterday from the Fleet I am assured that the 30 ships intended for the winter guard will have near three score new masts before they can goe out againe.

Sir John Harman is very ill of a kind of dropsy, insomuch that his recovery is almost despaired of; and Sir John Kempthorne is likewise ill, a slight wound he received in the late fight, by the negligence of his chirurgeon, endangering now the losse of his hand.

The Prince is expected in towne againe the beginning of the next week. The Earle of Ossory is still here, and it is beleived it will be the middle of the next month before he and the Duke of Monmouth goe downe. The officers in the Fleet have strict orders not to speake against the French as to their carriage in the late engagement, but that helps little, the whole nation being already sufficiently prepossessed. Wee have at present at Newcastle a fleet of 400 sayle of colliers hither bound. I am, with all dutifull respect, my Lord,

Your Ex^cies^ most faithfull and most obedient servant,

R. Yard.

R $\frac{1}{2}\frac{0}{0}$.

No. 101.—From Wm. Bridgeman.

My Lord, Whitehall, Sept. 5, '73.

Last ordinary brought us the Flanders letters of two posts, so I come to have the favour of two of your Ex^cies^ to acknowledge of the 22 and 26 of the last month.

I have spoke to my Lord Arlington about Mr. Hartopp of Antwerp, according to what you intimated to mee, and my Lord has given orders the mony should bee paid to whom he should appoint here, which accordingly I will see done.

Wee have this day received advice of the arrivall of the East India fleet (which has for this fortnight layn in Kinsale harbour, in Ireland,) att the Spitthead, and wee presume they may bee this night in the Downs; they have a convoy of 11 ships already with them, and his Majesty has ordered severall others to joyne with those for their greate security, though the winde continuing as it is, S.W., and a fresh gale, no greate danger I thinke can bee apprehended from the Dutch Fleet, it being (as the winde is) impossible for them to beare up to the Channell.

The fleet lyes att the buoy of the Nore, his Highness Prince Rupert being gone down thither to hasten the setting out such ships as the King has designed to keepe att sea the rest of this yeare, att least season. My Lord Ossory has the command in chiefe of them, and they say Sir John Chichley is to bee Vice-Admirall, and Sir John Holmes Rere-Admirall.

The discourse about the behaviour of the French in the last engagement is not yet over; the matter I doubt will stick by, and the rather by reason of Mons. Martell's relation of itt, a copy of which, for your particular satisfaction, I thought might not bee amisse to transmitt to you, and have accordingly enclosed it, though it is not suffered to bee published here.

I am, with all respect and truth, my Lord,

Your Excellencies most faithfull and most humble servant,

Wm. Bridgeman.

℞ $\frac{1\ 0}{2\ 0}$.

No. 102.—From John Richards.

My Lord, Whitehall, Sept. 5, '73.

Though the little time I have left might excuse mee for everything else, yet I may not omit acknowledgeing the honor of your Ex^{cies} of $\frac{\text{Sept. 5.}}{\text{Aug. 26.}}$

My Lord Sunderland hath beene these three daies in towne, at the instance of the French Ambassador in his Majesties name, for a body of three thousand Scotch and Irish. The King hath promised hee shall bee supplied with that number with all speed.

I am ever, my Lord,

Your Excellencies most humble servant,

Jo: Richards.

℞ $\frac{1\ 0}{2\ 0}$.

No. 103.—From Henry Ball.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, Sept. 5, 1673.

On Monday I presumed to give your Ex^cy^ an account of what had happened here since my last, since which, not finding anything at the Signett or elsewhere, I was almost ashamed to trouble your Ex^cy^, but that I considered any apology in that case could not justify my want of duty, which in the first place I ought to pay your Ex^cy^.

These 3 days our marchants have been allarmed with a report of 30 sayle of Dutch men of warr (as it was thought) that appeared off the Isle of Wight; but this morneing from Plymouth wee heare that the 2^nd^ instant appeared off there 11 frigatts, 2 fire-ships, and 12 East Indyamen, with severall merchants from the West Indyes, and the next day (as by express also) wee heare they anchored in Portsmouth Roade, which wee suppose to be our fleete (so eagerly expected) from Kinsale, and wee hope they are ere this gott into the Downes, the wind being very faire. On Monday sayled 8 frigatts towards them for their convoy, under Captain Harborough, which we hope are joyned them.

Sir Robert Carre this morneing commanded me to acquaint your Ex^cy^ that he most really acknowledges your Ex^cys^ favore to him by the last post, which he would most willingly have returned answer too, but that there is nothing of newes to write your Ex^cy^, without which hee thought it not materiall to trouble your Ex^cy^.

Our Fleete shall they say goe out noe more, and onely now a winter guard of 30 sayles of the 4th and fift rate frigatts, which are to be commanded by the Earl of Ossory as Admirall, Sir John Chicheley, Vice-Admirall, and Sir John Holmes, Rere-Admirall, and the Duke Monmouth only Captain of the Swiftsure, from which Mr. Vernon returned the last night and reports that it cannot be ready or any of the rest yett these 10 days, by reason wee have nothing in order to refitt ships as our enemy has. It's said his

Grace shall this winter learne the maritime affaires, and, if the warr continue, be made at spring Admirall of a Squadron, if not of the whole Fleete, for, though the Prince continues the power, yet they all say that his Highnesse is so strongly possest against the French, that he will not admitt of any thing that relates to their favour, and, to cleare himselfe and others from an imputation layd on them by an adverse party, is resolved to print his relation of the late engagement, which had been out before now, but that his Highnesse was so scrupulous as because he could not tell the just motion of the wind the Sunday when they were off of Camperdowne, he commanded that no coppyes should be delivered of itt till his returne from France, whither he went on Wednesday morning to give orders for severall things that [are] wanted in our navy. It's said his Highness will goe no more actually out, there being so high a faction both at sea and in court against him, yet it's said that his Highness continues the command and will not hold his tongue, but blames the French behaviour in the highest. I had hopes of a copy of his Highnesses relation, but Mr. Watkins of the Signett durst not lett me partake of that favour, which I think I am the last that askt it, there being divers copyes of this thing given about; but I hope your Excellency will looke upon us as persons wholely subject to whatever shall be commanded by my Lord Arlington's Secretaries and consequently not able to serve your Ex^cy^ as wee ought. Count Martell's relation to the French King is joyned to the Prince's, and both are resolved to lay all the calumny on the squadron of d'Estrées; and although his Majesty has commanded that nothing shall be spoken in derogation of the French honour, yett all our lampoones touches upon them, and will not allow them any courage att all in the late fight. A translate of what was printed in Amsterdam of the late fight is read in our coffee-houses, which sayes that the French and Blankert fought bravely, but lost not one man, and that will be the beliefe of all the English till Doomes Day. Sir John Harman is ill of a dropsicall feavour, or else he had had the command of the winter guard, because Sir John Kempthorne's wounds are not yett

so well as to allow him any ease. The Prince is lookt for the beginning of the next weeke, when the Earle of Ossory speakes of going out, yet it's much discourst of that so young officers should goe out now when the experienced commanders are wanting to doe us good. I heare no where but great complaints of the French, so that I believe your Ex^cy^ will heare from my Lord Arlington that the whole nation is sett against them, and that past recovery.

Sir Robert Holmes this week by petition asked the office of Customer of the Imposition upon Wool in reversion after Sir Philip Warwicke, but his Majesty was pleased to tell him that neither he or any one else should for the future have any reversion of any place, and that he could give order to the Greate Seale not to pass any thing of that nature, but it's believed that resolution will not hold long, for since that a reversion has been given to my Lord Treasurer's nephew for Comptroller of Plymouth.

I most humbly begg your Ex^cys^ pardon that I cannot give you a better account of passages here, but I hope your Ex^cy^ will believe I ever will to the utmost of my power be, may it please your Excellency,

Your Ex^cys^ most humble and most obedient servant,

HENRY BALL.

R $\frac{10}{20}$.

No. 104.—From William Bridegman.

My Lord, Whitehall, September 8th, 1673.

When I thought I should have been able to have told your Ex^cy^ your Bill of Extraordinaries was not onely allowed of but order given for the payment of the mony, I found that Mr. Floyd (in whose hands I put it, as being informed you had trusted him with that concerne,) had not so much as offered it to my Lord Treasurer, who, when I spoke to him, said he had heard nothing of it. Mr.

Floyd is, I am told, att present out of town, but as soone as I can retrieve the Bill, I will charge myselfe with seing it dispatched.

The greatest part of the rich Fleet lately come from Kinsale in Ireland are got safe into the river, but wee doe not heare the great East India men (who could not come over the flatts) are gott in yet, though it is presumed they might this afternoone; all the ships which were in a condition to goe out were ordered to goe to the Gunfleet for their greater security.

The King intending, as it is said, not to sett out so great a squadron now as att first before the arrivall of the East India ships he designed, has appointed Sir Robert Holmes to goe as Commander in Chief, in the roome of my Lord of Ossory, who was to have commanded the Fleet for the rest of this season. The Count d'Estree is ordered home, and, if there bee no danger of the Dutch, will saile with the first faire winde.

After all the *licences* and *propositions the Duke of York had* entertained *of diverse matches he hath at last pitched upon Mademeselle Crequi*, and accordingly *Sir William Lockhart* has *orders to aske the King of France his consent to it.*[1]

I am with all respect and truth, my Lord,
Your Excellency's most faithful and most humble servant,
Wm. Bridgeman.

No. 105.—From Sir Thomas Player.

Sir, Guildhall, September 9th, 1673.

I presum'd to write a second letter to your Ex^cye^, I feare 'tis miscarryed, and yet why should I feare the miscarriadge of it, which cannot be worth anything but only as it had your name upon it. This third paper comes only to declare that I have not forgot your commands, and that I shall always be obedient to what you shall injoyne. I have noe pleasure in writeing anything that is troublesome, but as wee have little else to discourse of, soe I have little

[1] See note on Letter 97, p. 4.

else to write of. 'Tis beyond my skill to describe the disorder the people were in here upon the not fighting of the French in the last battle, especially when there was a prospect of a glorious victory. The Citizens of London lookt more disconsolate than when their citie lay in ashes, and it could not be otherwise, for though the wisedome of the State might thinke fitt to stifle any publick narrative wherein the French might be exposed, yet there were so many letters came from the Commanders and others of the Fleet chargeing with cowardise and treachery, that it was impossible to conceale it. While we were in this distemper it pleased Almighty God, who hath often delivered us out of difficultyes, to send us the news of the retakeing St. Helena, of the takeing 3 Dutch East India shipps, and of the arrivall of these with six of our owne East India shipps and a considerable fleet of Barbadoes men, in all 46 sayle, at Kingsale in Ireland. This did a little divert the humour, but I doe not beleeve 'tis cured. The sixth instant came the news of the arrivall of this whole Fleet in the Downes; this gave a farther diversion, and the discourse now is how these prizes may be disposed to the best advantage.

In my last I thinke I acquainted your Ex^cye^ that the government of London was asleepe, and in a deepe one, for it is not yet awake; the truth is 'tis soe quiett 'tis pitty to wake it; but if God Almighty did not take care of us wee were in a miserable case.

Wee have binne much troubled in the Election of Sheriffs. One Mead, a Quaker, was chosen, and he hath seald a bond of 1,000*l.* to hold, but desiring the bond to consider a quarter of an hour of it, he thrust in this in writing as a condition, "Provided that nothing be offerd to me contrary to the commands of Christ;" and signd it and deliverd it before wee discoverd the cheat.

Wee have this evening the good news of the arrivall of a very considerable coale fleet, the secureing of which with all the India ships is the more considerable, because 'tis said the Dutch are abroad.

A jewell is prepareing for D'Estrées of 3,000*l.* and a medall for Scaramucci of 50*l.*

The sweetnesse of your Ex^cys temper will I hope incline you to pardon my littel things I trouble you with, and yet to entertaine me as your Ex^cyes most faithfull and humble servant,

THO: PLAYER.

My most humble service to your Major Domo.

R 1 Oct. / 21 Sept.

No. 106.—FROM JOHN RICHARDS.

My Lord, Whiteball, Sept. 12, '73.

As my Lord Arlington is very particular even in the matter of our common news, soe little remaines to bee added thereunto. All regiments are sent to their winter quarters and reduced to 60 in each company, and Sir William Lockhart's regiment designed for France for one of those I formerly mencioned.

I am sorry I am not better furnisht to expresse with what devotion I am, my Lord,

Your Excellencies most humble and most obedient servant,

JO. RICHARDS.

R 21. / 1 Oct.

No. 107.—FROM SIR FRANCIS CHAPLIN.[1]

May it please your Exelensy, London, the 13th Sept. 1673.

Since yours of the 8th of August received and had given you the troble of an answer before this, but did expect to have sene you here before now, by all the account I can have this is farr the better place.

I long to see you here, beleveing you will be capable of doeing the King and Kingdom better servis then you can doe there. For the Leftenant of the Tower,[2] I am very sorry he should forgit himselfe so farr; he is neether taken up with his Majesty's ore[3] Citty busines, but have bin in the country with his lady above 2 munths a threshing.

[1] A City Alderman (Lord Mayor in 1678), and a member of the Clothworkers' Company with Williamson.

[2] Sir John Robinson. [3] *i.e.* or.

For news, we have very litle but what you have a better account of then I can give you.

In the Citty they sum time sins chose one Mead, a Quaker, Sheriff, who with his party did intend to give the Citty a great troble, but we put on a good resolution and turnd him off and sent him to Newgate for his rudnes to the Court, and now the gentleman is a little tamer.

We have chosen two honest good sheriffs, Alderman Tulse, Mr. Nath. Herne, but he fined, and Mr. Lethlere[1] is chosen in his place.

All the Towne have allready married you unto my Lady Smith. I shall use all diligence to assist in setling her accounts against you cum bak; pray be not dilatory, for these long and coold nights a good bedfellow is very acceptable.

I have performed your commands to my Lord Maier;[2] we are not unmindfull of your health every time we meett. I am very sorry for honest Luke Weekes that he is not well. I wish you much hapines and a speedy returne. Presenting my and my wifs servis, I am, Sir, your Exelensys most humble sarvant,

FRAN: CHAPLIN.

Indorsed,
SIR FRAN: CHAPLIN.
R. Oct. $\frac{2}{1\,2}$.

No. 108.—FROM THE DUCHESS OF PORTSMOUTH.[3]

De Londres, ce 15 Septembre, 1673.

Sy je naves etes for incommoder tousse tans ysy jesper Monsyeur que vous croyes bien que je naures pas manques a vous randre mille grasse de la part que vous me faite la grasse de me tesmoinner

[1] The Sheriffs who served were Sir Henry Tulse (afterwards Lord Mayor in 1684), and Sir Robert Geffery (afterwards Lord Mayor in 1686), who were both knighted by the King when present at Guildhall on the ensuing Lord Mayor's feast. Sir Nathaniel Herne and John Lethieullier, Esq. were elected in the next ensuing year, 1674. [2] Sir George Waterman.

[3] A reply to courtier-like congratulations from Williamson on the lady's elevation to be Duchess of Portsmouth. The original spelling of this French letter is literally followed.

prandre a lhonneur que le roy me vient de faire je nes pas este surprise de voutre honnestete car javves tan de marque si considerable que se na fait que me confirmer davantaie dans le sonet que je toujour que vou me feries la grasse de vouloyr bien estre sainseremant de mes amis je vous en conjure instanment Monsyeur vous assurant que que vous ne le pouves estre de personne qui sayt plus veritablemant des voutre ni qui vous honnore ny estimme tan que moy.

La Duchesse de Portsmouth.

Sy jausay vous prier de prandre un peu de soin et vous recommander la faire de say pouvre jans que vous saves on je suys inteyressé je vous an seres infinismant obligies.

R Oct. 5.

No. 109.—From Henry Ball.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, Sept. 19, 1673.

Since my last on Monday by Mr. Barré wee have not heard of your Excellency, nor indeed have had any forreigne post, 4 being wanting from Holland. These 5 or 6 dayes have been troubled with continuall and sad stormes, but without any prejudice to any part of our Fleete, as wee heare; but the French squadron that went out of the river on Satturday last, before they gott to Rye on Tuesday were so fiercely attacqued with itt, that yesterday wee heard there was 14 of them forced back into the Downes, some of them into Hide Bay, Folston, and Dover, and about 13 missing, they could not tell where, as feared blown over to the Flanders coast, and a man of warr (the Bourbon) of 56 gunns, run on ground in Sandown Bay, and a fire ship off of Thanett. But this day wee heare that shee was yesterday indeed fast still, but not without hopes of getting her off; that D'Estree and Martell were putt into Dover, and Sir John Holmes in the Royall Charles, with the Portesmouth Squadron going home, were still safe and in Hide Bay,

haveing ridd out the storme without the least damage. This talke of the French loss has been received (I assure your Excellency) by the generalty of the people as good newes, not any of them being willing to imagine that our interest is interwoven with theirs. His Majesty sent downe imediately orders to the Commissioners of the Navy for the sending the French Fleete all they wanted, as 40 anchors and cables and much provisions. Our Deale people tooke it ill of them, that when they came aboard them upon the fireing of their gunns, they gave each boate but halfe a crown for a whole night's worke, when a little vessell for the like gives them 10*s*. But all people are apt to take any little thing ill they doe. This day comes newes (and indeed I have it from Sir Lawrence de Busty and other French marchants,) that Monsieur Martell, since his putting out of the river, has been arrested by the French King's orders and made a prisoner in his own ship for high treason, his flagg taken away, and threatened to be putt to death for disobeying orders, etc., upon the hearing of which, Prince Rupert (they tell me) fretted and tare his haire, vowing that his Majesty ought not to permitt so worthy a person to loose his life for doing his duty in his service; how true this may be I know not, but all people report it with the greatest concerne and rage imaginable.

This day went away Mr. Vernon with the Duke of Monmouthes baggage for France, his Grace following on Monday next.

There has been a great contest they say between Monsieur Schomberg and Sir Walter Vane since their coming to towne, insomuch that the last has resigned his commission, saying that, while his Majestyes service required his obedience he has submitted himselfe to be commanded by a forreigner, but now the camp was broake up he could not resent his being slighted; indeed the whole body of officers are not pleased with Monsieur Schomberge, and so dayly offerr him affronts.

It proves a mistake, which the marchants constantly affirmed last weeke, of the arrivall of our Virginia fleete at Kinsale, they being not yett heard of, and now only our Smirna fleete expected that putts us to any concerne.

The Earle of Ossory continues with the Fleete, putting it in order in the absence of Prince Rupert, but Captain Narborough is the person named to go out for the winter guard and secure the Turkish fleete home. Our herring fishing is begun, and great probability of a good season if the multiplicity of capers hinder not, who now begin to play their trickes again on our coast.

Since the newes of the Imperiall troopes resolveing to fight, and the French King desireing recruites of men, his Majesty has been pleased to contradict his orders about disbanding 40 in a company (which caused great noyse and murmurring amongst the soldiery), but it seems it came too late, all the regiments on shoare having made hast to putt off their men before muster-day, so that now the inconveniency in it is seen and repented, and where now the Collonells would gett more men they cannot for their lives; so that upon this order of my Lord Peterborough's, my Lord Vaughan's, and the Scotch regiments to goe for France, and 2 companyes out of each regiment to goe along with them to make them 4000, they cannot without difficulty make up that number, and the men and officers goe very unwillingly.

Peace is now dispaired of by all; so that now nothing looked toward but the appearance of the meeting of the Parliament, which makes a great deale of noyse, and every one reporting strang discourses of the caball about it, worse almost than the dreame. My Lord Lauderdall's departure is smiled att, and it's feared there will not be a very serene month of November.

There is nothing att all this weeke at the Signett, but 2,000*l.* to my Lady Diana Countess of Oxford, without account.

I can heare nothing of the opening of the prizes, Mr. Charles Bennett being not yet returned from them; they lye at Eriffe now, and they say are pittifully plundered.

My Lord Chancellor [1] has been these two dayes somewhat indisposed with the goute, but hopes to come to the Cabinett to-morrow. Prince Rupert and he are observed to converse very much together and are very great, and indeed I see his Highnesses coach often at

[1] The Earl of Shaftesbury.

his doore. They are lookt upon to be the great Parliament men, and for the interest of Old England.

I went this afternoon to receive my Lady O'Bryan's commands, before I writt to your Excellency. Her honour was pleased to tell me shee had been so very much indisposed since the coming of her brother's [1] body, that shee knew your Excellency would excuse her nott writing this post. Shee commanded me to present her humble service and to tell you all her family were very well and wisht your Excellency all imaginable happyness.

On Monday by Mr. Barré I presumed to send your Excellency the scutcheons Mr. Marshall did for you.[2] I hope he will bring them safe.

I wayted upon Mr. Chancellor of the Dutchy this day, who, and his family, are all very well.

Wee all here long for your Excellencyes returne, and I especially, I whose being depends so much on your favour and esteeme, that I most humbly make it my request to your Excellency to believe it shall ever be my indeavour not only to acknowledge your former five yeares favour, but with my utmost power to purchase in a larger manner if possible the honour of being, may it please your Excellency, your Excellencyes most humble and obedient servant till death,

HENRY BALL.

Dr. Butler is returned from sea, and presents his most humble service to your Excellency.

R Oct. $\frac{2}{12}$.

[1] Her brother was Duke of Richmond, who married the beautiful Miss Stuart of whom Charles II. was enamoured, and who, having been sent Ambassador to Denmark, died at Elsinore, December 21, 1672. His body was laid in the vault of the family in Henry the Seventh's Chapel at Westminster, Sept. 20, 1673.

[2] Probably such as Ambassadors were then accustomed to leave at the hotels and other lodgings which they occupied on their route.

No. 110.—From James Vernon.

May it please your Excellency, 19th Sept. 1673.

My Lord Duke is returning to France upon an advice he received from Mr. de Louvois of the King of France intending some great action. Captain Watson and I go this day for Paris with all the equipage, his Grace resolving to follow about the end of next weeke. It is thought the King is coming towards Franche Comté. As any thing shall occur hereafter I will take the liberty to transmitt it to your Excellency, when I may do it without being afraid of troubling you with repetitions. I am, my Lord, your Excellencyes most obedient and most faithfull servant, J. Vernon.

No. 111.—From Sir Nicholas Armourer.[1]

May it please your Excellencie, Mewes,[2] 23d of Sept. '73.

I ffinde by the 2 Minstrills letters to mee that I lye under a hard censure that I have not writ to you all this while. Were I alltogether guilty off it, I durst not adventure to excuse myselffe. It's trew I had but litle to say, yett I ventured to give you the trouble amongst your more weighty affaires to give you a whole sheete with all the Baggettells of Court and Citty, and sent it inclossed to Tom Faireffax, in the begining of Jully, and left that letter at Mr. Yard's office, since which tyme I never hard of it, and seeing your letters sometymes to your brethren the Aldermen, I thought my selffe out of favor and durst shute my boult noe more. If this gett mee a pardon, I'le promise for the future never to desserve your displeassure in this kinde anie more. In my letter I gave you first one account of the sale of your coach hors to my Lord off Arran for 20 gennyes, after hee had stoode a good while at the Inne, for, make us thankefull for it, wee were glad to sett a sett of the King's Coach hors in the selffe same Inne for want of stable rome in the Mewes, and that ther is will not keepe the raine out; this is the flurishing condition of his Majestie's stables at

[1] Sir N. Armourer was an equerry to Charles II.

[2] *i.e.* the royal stables at Charing Cross.

pressent; when they will bee better tyme will shew. The next place I give you the rellation of Teague's [1] parting with his wiffe, which was done with greate formallity beffore Justice Brunker, but since, upon her submission, shee is restored to his bed and board. Heare is noe news conssiderable I am sure you have not notice of from better hands, but heare is a 1000 coffee-houss reports and libells sans number, our great Minesters jeallous of one and other and preparing against October to see who is strongest. Our Master of the Hors [2] it's saide does intend to impeatch my Lord Arllington this Session, others say hee will be soe himselfe. This day it's said Father Pattrick goes away, and too morrow Dick Talbott, and Lord Arrondell of Warder next weeke, all for France. Ill members are creepeing up to towne all ready and getting into caballs, for frinde Robin Thomass [3] carryes the world upon his thumb, and will hang, draw, and quarter whom hee pleasses; looke to your selfe and bring home a good peace.

I have spent all this buckhunting seasson with your brother Secritarie Coventry at his lodge in Envile Chasse,[4] wher hee has good horses, good doggs, and good cheere, and rides hard when his health will permitt him, which was not good a month agoe, and made him spend much tyme ther to take the watters, which did him much good for the tyme, but now within this 3 dayes his distemper is returned, and hee is under the milke dyete, but I hope hee will doe well, for hee is a worthy and pleassant man. My Lord Arllington

[1] Teague is evidently some individual (see the opposite page), but Teague was then a generic name for an Irishman.

"And the fat spoils of Teague in triumph draw,
His firkin-butter and his usquebaugh."

Dryden's Prologue to the Prophetess, line 27.

The Rev. Mr. Grosart in his edition of Andrew Marvell describes Teague as "a joke-name, as Paddy or Sandy or John Bull." But query, in the line

"With Father Patrick, Talbot, and with Teague,"

can the particular Teague named in this letter be the man? for Patrick and Talbot are both soon mentioned (see p. 26).

[2] The Duke of Buckingham.

[3] Sir Robert Thomas, an M.P.

[4] Enfield Chase, co. Middlesex, of which Secretary Coventry was Ranger. See Robinson's History of Enfield, 1823, i. 228.

and hee are verie well together, and serve ther master as they ought; they are both Lord Ormond's frindes and hee thers; the other two came both to his lodge and dyned ther last weeke, and were all cheerefull and well pleassed with ther entertainement. Lord Ossory came upp from the Fleete; hee is the joye of the Court, Citty and Contry. Good folkes are fond on him, and bad thinke it saffest to lett him allone: hee will want yow next weeke when hee is to take a frindelly dinner with Lord Maior, but Sir Joseph Shelldon will supplly your place for want of a better.

For Godsake make hast home: heare is ane office stays for you, and Teague tells mee a wiffe too in the Mall, and hee lickes her verie well ay Taite and has writ to tee about it as hee says.

If poore Luke misscarrye, wee are all undon wher shall hospitallitye be found in White Hall. I hope in God hee will come saffe to White Hall; Naido Massom prays for him daylly.

I feare by striveing to mend my fault I have made a greater in this long scrible; all I cane say I'le take all ways and meanes that I cane imagen to assure you off my beeing faithfully, whilst I breath,

Your Excellences faithfull and humble servant,

NIC: ARMORER.

Indorsed,
SIR N. ARMORER.
℞ Oct. 6.

No. 112.—FROM JOHN RICHARDS.

My Lord, Whitehall, September 26th, '73.

The great punctuality your Excy is pleased to honour mee with by two I received yesterday of the $\frac{9}{19}$ and $\frac{12}{22}$ by the Flanders ordinary, as it ever obliges mee to an humble acknowledgement, soe it leaves mee in some trouble that I have nothing at present to

expresse it in. Collonell Richard Talbot and Father Patrick [1] have their passes ready to bee gone beyond sea, and the Parliament men are mighty forward in taking lodgings already, soe that 'tis supposed there will bee a very great appearance even in the first day of their meeting. When I acquainted your Ex^cy with the arrivall of our Virginia Fleet, I think I forgot one circumstance, that before their leaving Virginia they were assaulted by Evertson's squadron of 8 men of war and 2 fireships, and eleaven of their number partly sunk, partly taken by them before they could recover the fort which protected the rest. Now the Dutch Fleet is gone in and ours continues soe, there is little newes to be expected from sea; as for what the land may afford worth your knowledge, wee judge must bee from the neighbourhood of the great armies of the French and Imperialists, which furnishes the Towne here with millions of stories and conjectures. I shall only adde at present what is most true, that I am, with entire resignation, my Lord,

Your Ex^cys most humble servant,

Jo. Richards.

R Oct. 5.

No. 113.—From Sir Nicholas Armourer.

Mewes, the 2nd off October, 16 days beffore the Parliament sitting, '73.

I have 2 of yours which are welcome to mee, though they bring noe tydeings of peasse, because they come from my ould frinde that in whatever station hee is forgetts not his ould acquaintance; and since you command mee not to be seriouse, which you know is not my way, I shall most willingly entertaine you with your good leave at the ould rate. Wee are still in paine for poore Luke, who by Watt's letter wee finde is still in danger. Wee have

[1] In Marvell's "Advice to a Painter" (1673) the Duke of York is made to address the Pope:

"Most holy Father! being joined in league
With Father Patrick, Talbot, and with Teague."

bene all agog heare this tenn days with the hopes of a new Dutchess; at last, after virgins have allmost scratched out one and others' eyes to be maides of honor, its yesterday whispered shee comes; shee comes not, as the saying is. Tom Nailler came out off Yorkeshire last night; hee sweares the peopell ther say the Duke was marryed to the Pope's eldest daughter; nay more, hee vows hee thinkes the Lord Caselton [1] beleaves it, and by this tyme Robin Thomas [2] has conffirmed that beleffe. The 4 maides of honor were to be, Miss Kirk, Miss Boynton, Miss Midleton, and Miss Jenings; Lady Bollassiss was to be lady of honor next Lady Peterborrow; folks say that there by hangs a breetch.

Dick Tallbot and Father Patrick are both marched off, but have left the gallery too crowded with ther excellent countrymen, that I am forced to goe fidelling through what shuch shovells off those vipers doe heare, God knows. This weeke is arived your good frinde Sir Mauris Justace, [3] to the great joye off Miss Lockett, and I thinke off few els off our nation, that know his late proceedings; for take him for what you pleasse heare, I know what hee is on the other side the watter; hee has beene too coning for himselfe, and the Dutches of Cleveland will be too hard for him.

For God sake make hast home with peace or without. I know Cullen [4] is a damed place in winter for folks of your humer. I was by when your letter was read concerning Tom Faireffax and Watt about the wine proceeding; the thing will be done for the raskalls, and iff they bring not some to the Mewes, lett them never come home. I have sent them all the litle intrigues I know, which they are to communicate to your Ex^{lence}; and soe God keepe you and send you soone to, dear Sir,

Your own servant whilst I am,

C. Lawss.[5]

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[1] Viscount Castletown, an Irish Peer.

[3] Sir Robert Thomas, an M.P., one of the Opposition.

[3] Sir Maurice Eustace had been Lord Chancellor of Ireland, 1660—5.

[4] Cologne.

[5] This letter is endorsed, Sir N. Armorer, and is in his handwriting.

No. 114.—From Sir Robert Carr, Bart.

Sir, October the 3rd, 1673.

As to your affaires, all things are done by my Lord[1] as you could desier, and though some as I wrote you before, and great *ones*,[2] *have desired to tel lies, he would not* [*sanc*]*tion them*, it is a misserable malitious ayr. The thing I mentioned in my last was *my Lord Arlington's lodgings*, *which Secretary Coventry intends to have*, *but my Lord will demand his money payd out*, or what els he hath in his power to *keep them for you;*[3] he saith *my Lord Chamberlin saith he will be redy when you come.* My Lord Arlington went this day to Euston, returns upon Tewsday. I hope upon Thursday next to goe to my new howse; if there be any thing wherin I may serve you, I pray let me know, for I doe assure you noe one is more cordiallie then my self, Sir,

Your most faithfull servant,

R. Carr.

My wife and neece present you with their humble services; wee all wish you at home.

No. 115.—From Thomas Ross.

My Lord, Whitehall, October 3rd, 1673.

At my returne from Bath I found here your lordshipp's very obliging letter of the 9th of the last, by which I finde your Excy hath mine, wherein I gave you those intimations which I thought did become that integrity and justice which I have vowed to your service. Since that, I have met with noe oppertunity of

[1] Lord Arlington. Sir R. Carr was his brother-in-law.

[2] The words in italics are in cypher in the original.

[3] This means that Arlington, who was appointed Lord Chamberlain, wished Williamson, who was to be the new Secretary of State, to succeed him in his lodgings, and not his present colleague, Henry Coventry.

writing unless by the common post, which I hope you will excuse if [I] doe it very rarely. October being now began, wee already (men of all sorts) are condemning and acquitting severall persons, (and those of noe meane quality) as if the next meeting of the Parliament should bee nothing but an High Court of Justice, and a Goale Delivery. The members begin to flock up to Towne, and are met at the very stirop to bee engaged in cabals against this or that great man.

At this great baiting, one of the bears intended to be brought to the stake is his Grace of Lauderdaill, and there are shrewd mines ready to spring soe soone as the members sitt, hee having let fall (how prudently you may judge) some words which have provoked some, who have (they say) misreported them to others; this part of the story lyes among the Commons, where some have engaged to breake the ice, and very many to follow the blow; but among the Lords his principall antagonist is the little one once his great confidant,[1] who (though his Grace said hee would crush the little worme with his great toe,) most believe will wriggle from under him and trip up his heeles; but to bee out of reach his Grace goes the 8th instant for Scotland, where the discontents against him are, I believe, more just and weighty than those here, and I am assured that if once they begin here, will breake like thunder from thence, soe wee shall bee sure to heare of them.

Next to him a strong collection of crimes mentioned already to our Master will be exhibited against the late Lord Treasurer,[2] who is yet in the country, and its believed will not come up this Session, but is ready to take wing upon the first notice. The conjunction is firme as interest can make it, between my Lord Chancellor[3] and Lord Arlington, to whom the Duke of Buckingham vows noe lesse then ruine, though most believe the bolt being shott it will

[1] Query, if this is Shaftesbury. He is spoken of immediately after more respectfully as Lord Chancellor.

[2] Lord Clifford.

[3] The Earl of Shaftesbury.

fall heaviest on himselfe. To bee short, there's worke cut out here enough to spoile 3 kingdomes, but not to mend one.

The priests and papists now begin to withdraw, and, among others, Dick Talbot and Father Patrick (with tears in his eyes) are gone, they and others having provoked many zealous men to bee their enemies, resolving to clamour in Parliament against their stay here contrary to the desire of the Houses.

Sir W^m^ Lockart arrived here from France this morneing. His suddain arrivall hath given occasion of severall conjectures of the reason of his being sent for: some say hee is designed Embassador Extraordinary, but I am whispered that my Lord Lauderdail seeing a storme comeing (for hee is now a little startled), intends to make a Secretary of State [1] that is his confident, which will bee much to his advantage in his absence, and of great use to him.

I wish I could heare something in order to your returne with the olivebranch, that I may have oportunity to kiss your hands, and assure you how unalterably I am, my Lord,

Your Ex^cys^ most humble and most faithfull Ser^t^,

THO: ROSS.

No. 116.—FROM R. YARD.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 3 October, 1673.

In my last I told your Ex^cy^ that my Lady Katherine had called upon me for 50*l.* to pay for severall things her Ladyship bought for your Ex^cy^, but I since find her Ladyshipp has layd out 70*l.*, and that she expects the money from me, and I am told that she is somewhat offended that she has not the money. I therefore humbly beg your Ex^cy^ will be pleased to order Mr. Newcomb to pay it, for otherwise he scruples to doe it, and in the mean time my

[1] Secretary of State for Scotland is meant. As to Sir William Lockhart, see note, vol. i. p. 71.

Lady thinks I have mony in my hands and disowne it. Yesterday Mr. P. arrived from Zealand, but haveing, by reason of the bad weather, been long on his way, brings not any thing of news. He told mee there were some persons in your Ex^cies family, who were some what indiscreet in their letters to their friends in Flanders, of which the enclosed bill of paper will informe your Ex^cy. With Mr. P. came over Mr. William Howard [1] (the same who was in the Tower about Xmas last); he had been in Holland, and as I am informed by order, but it seems managed his businesse very indiscreetly, and layd himself open there, as he says, by the fault of his man, who ran away from him and betrayed him. What he says farther to justify himselfe, I know not, but no sooner was he come to Towne, but was committed close prisoner to the Tower. Wee have news of the takeing of New Yorke by Everson; how it comes to us your Ex^cy will please to see by the enclosed. Wee now begin to expect our new Dutchesse; orders are given to have a squadron of men of warr ready to goe over to fetch her, and some say that his Royall Highnesse will goe him selfe halfe seas over, if not as farr as Calais, to meet her. People begin now to talke very much of peace againe, and will needs have the Dutch are about proposeing very advantageous terms, provided his Majesty will make a peace with the exclusion of France, though I cannot learne on what they ground this discourse. The Dutch capers appeare againe in great numbers on our coast, but without doeing any great mischief as yet. As the time for the meeting of the Parliament draws near, so people are the more taken up with discourses concerneing every vote they are to passe; the Duke of B. was one they have long had an eye upon, as if he should be called to an account concerneing his negotiation when in France, but now they say, that to save himselfe he will discover great matters, and all that has passed in the Cabinett.

[1] Hon. William Howard, afterwards third Lord Howard of Escrick, who has an infamous notoriety as false witness against Russell and Sydney. He was now accused of traitorous correspondence with William, Prince of Orange, and was imprisoned on his arrival in England from Holland.

By this your Ex^cy may please to guesse what is at present the generall talke of the Towne. Sir William Lockart is arrived post from the French Court, it is thought when he returnes againe he will have the character of Ambassador. The forces designed for France are prepareing for their embarkation, though, to say truth, there is a generall unwillingnesse as well in the soldiers as officers to goe into the French service.

I have waited upon Sir Robert Southwell concerneing your Ex^cys arrears at the Prize Office and Councell Chamber. He tells me he endeavours what he can to gett them payd, and will himselfe give your Ex^cy an account how near he is to it. I am unwilling to trouble your Ex^cy with any thing which happens relating to our selfes, but cannot forbear telling your Ex^cy how unkindly wee are dealt with in the office, and did it concerne my particular onely I should dispense with it, but since I know they aime by it to doe your Ex^cy a prejudice, I presume to lett your Ex^cy to know it.

Mr. Bridgman, I am told, takes many occasions to find fault with the writeing and stile of the Gazette; did he doe it to me, I should thank him, and think his designe was that I should endeavour to mend it; but whilst he makes these complaints to others, I cannot believe he means well by it, and besides I am sure they endeavour all they can to run me into errors, by keeping up from us all kind of letters which come to their hands, and for want of which it may happen that wee know not some publick things wee ought. But I humbly beg your Ex^cys pardon for this presumption, and praying for your Ex^cy health, prosperity, and happy returne, I am with all humble duty,

My Lord,

Your Excellency's most faithfull obedient servant,

R. Yard.

No. 117.—From R. Yard.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 8 October, 1673.

In my last I omitted to owne the receipt of your Excellency's of the 10th instant by Mr. Bulstrode; by him I received two letters from your Excellency for my Lady Katherine; the one I sent her Ladyshipp the evening he arrived, and the other the next morneing, Mr. Bulstrode haveing forgott to putt it in my hands till then.

The French Fleet, which sailed from Spitthead on Saturday last, on their way home, are forced back againe by bad weather and contrary winds, and, as our letters arrived this day from Portsmouth say, were then at an ankor beyond St. Helen's point; some of this squadron are already gott home, and others are yet remaineing in the Downes, the late stormes haveing so dispersed them, and done them greater damage then all the three engagements they were in this summer, to use the words of the Towne.

Mr. Howard, who I told your Excellency was committed prisoner, has made his escape, by the folly and negligence of the messenger in whose hands he was; the misfortune has fallen upon poor Legat, who is now in the Gatehouse for the escape of his prisoner. I am assured by some people, who pretend to know very well, that this Howard was the author of the Appeale from the Cabal to the Parliament,[1] and so, instead of serveing those he was employed by, has worked quite contrary.

This morneing the King and Duke went to Windsor, and will be back againe on Friday. I know nothing more to communicate to your Excellency, and am, with all duty and submission, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most faithfull,
humble, and most obedient servant,
R. Yard.

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[1] This tract, which shows great knowledge of foreign affairs, was ascribed, and probably correctly, to Sir William Coventry.

No. 118.—From John Richards.

My Lord, Whitehall, October 8, 1673.

I returne your Ex^cy my most humble acknowledgements for the honour of your Ex^cys of the 6^th and 10^th S. N°, to which I have little worth adding. The French squadron is not yet cleare of our coast, 5 still remaining in the Downes, the rest are still seene from Portsmouth. The King went this morning to Hampton Court and returnes not till Friday; at his returne will be appointed the severall convoys for the Streights, Gottenburg, &c.

The Towne fills apace with Parliament men, and all judge the appearance will bee very extraordinary. I am ever, with all respect and devotion, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most humble faithfull servant,

R 14/24. Jo: Richards.

No. 119.—From Henry Ball.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, Oct. 10, 1673.

Mr. Bulstrode, leaving us on Wednesday last, will, I hope, in some measure satisfye your Excellency with what was then currant in Towne; by him I sent a letter and a gold hatband I had from my Lady. Since his returne wee have nothing else discourst of but that the Treaty is quite broake off, that the Dutch Ambassadors are returned home, and your Excellency very suddainly expected, so that a suddain declaration against Spaine is dayly expected, upon his Majestyes telling the Spanish marchants the French had orders to take that King's subjects' ships wherever they mett them; the Citty are not at all pleased at the continuance of the warr, because they thinke it's for the French interest.

His Majesty is not come this night as was expected, and will not till to morrow noon; yesterday he was pleased to honour Mr.

Chiffinch [1] with his presence at dinner at Filberds, and is divising many pritty projects to enlarge the little Parke there and make it more fitt for deere; he sayes next yeare he will spend much of his summer there, being mightily taken with it. Mademoiselle Gwinne went to Mr. Chiffinches the day before, which gives matter for some talke, and indeed now they lett not his sacred person alone neither, but say (and that every body) that he has had lately 3 sad fitts of an apoplexy, the first whereof tooke him in the Duchesse of Portesmouth's presence, who has since begged he would not come to her att nights, as I formerly told your Excellency. On Tuesday, they say, he had a 3rd fitt in the Privy garden, so that many people are much concerned and have begged his Majesty to be adviced by his phisitians, who tell him he must a little refraine company, etc. This report sinckes deeply into every one's breast and it's all the talke.

Just now a gentleman, come this day from Windsor, tells me when he came out thence my Lord Duke of Buckingham was come thither with Don Carlos, who was presently att a Chapter of the Garter summoned in the Castle elected a Knight of the Garter, and is to be formally created Duke of Richmond.[2] My Lady of Northumberland and her new husband, Mr. Montague, have already begun to differr upon a report risen from him, as shee sayes, that he bought her of her mayd for 500*l.* per annum, and the Towne talke of parting them. The Duke of Lauderdale has now packt up

[1] William Chiffinch, son of Thomas Chiffinch, and after his father Keeper of the King's Closet. The father died in 1666.

[2] Don Carlos was the King's natural son Charles Fitzroy, by Catharine Peg, afterwards created Earl of Plymouth. See note, vol. i. p. 79. It is probably a mistake in the text that he was to be made Duke of Richmond; this title was afterwards conferred on another natural son, another Charles, Charles Lennox, the son of the Duchess of Portsmouth, born July 29, 1672, and made Duke of Richmond, August 9, 1675. This son of the Duchess of Portsmouth also obtained the Mastership of the Horse, which appears at this time to have been intended for Don Carlos (see vol. i. pp. 79, 88): the office, when taken from the Duke of Buckingham, was first given to three Commissioners in trust for Charles Lennox during his minority; and in 1679, he assumed the office. (Beatson's Political Index.)

all his goods, and will leave the Towne next weeke, staying now only for his pardon, which is now passing with all speed, for all offences committed before the 30th of September past; but it has not halfe the repetition of words as my Lord Clifford's, so that they say he will not abide the meeting of the House, who talke so high already against him. The Towne will have itt that the Dutchess of Modena's mother is comeing with her daughter, and that shee is but 30 yeares old, the Pope's niece, and one that will worke wonders for the Papists; so that they will not approve at all of the marriage, and say my Lord Peterborough was forbidd 3 times not to goe on, but that he would doe it having private instructions from the Duke. They say the French King goes himselfe to meete the old Lady, and to instruct her how to worke his interest here, and that this young Lady is not at all handsome, and are so malicious as to name her severall deformities: as croaked, redd haire, 13, and very little, with severall such indecent discourses; and so great is their feares, that they talke of desireing the King not to consummate it here. The hate and malice against the French continues as high as ever, every one takeing a very great liberty of rayling against them, and the seamen especially; a French ship that was scattered and forced into Falmouth was asked by the townesmen why their Fleete did not fight, who answered them, their orders were to fight under the Duke, not the Prince, and that they hoped the English would not dispute the point of courage with them; the marchants also that have been so long petitioning for redress for the loss of their ships taken from them in the yeares 1667, 68, 69, and 70, before this warr, by the French, are now preparing to address themselves to the Parliament, and have made historicall manifestatoes of their damages accordingly, very much to the French disadvantage. It was talked on Wednesday last, that wee should have sought our owne interest and have endeavored to make some advantage of this conjuncture, and that the Counte de Molina was to come privately over for that purpose, but now they say not a word of him. They blame much the D[uke] of B[uckingham] for being the cause of

makeing that Treaty; not to act alone was the least advantagious, in regard they were the possessors, and so of the greater power.

My Lord Chancellor is yet very ill, and they will have it in the Citty that it's through his great thinkeing how to carry himselfe through these great actions.

Captain Munden has lost all his creditt in this late business of S^{ta} Helena, his owne people betraying him and saying that he came into the Bay where the S^{t} Patricke lay careening, where she had taken out all her gunns; that he only treating with the Captain to restore her, was drilled off till he gott his gunns aboard, and then plainly told he would not yeild her; upon which he went away and left her; that he broake bulke, and plundered much, and then was so niggardly to the seamen, that they deserted him.

Poore Legatt is not yet gott out of the Gatehouse, and, that which is worse for him, he is threatened to be turned out. All people wonder much why the King should be so suddainly angry with Mr. Howard, when all this last yeare he was imployed by him, but others say there is more att the bottome that will not be discovered yet.

The payments in the Checquer run but very slow, my Lord Treasurer refuseing to obey orders for money given upon no great occasion, as lately 10,000*l.* to my Lady D[utchesse] of P[ortesmouth]; her Grace is now pritty well again, but lookes very bad.

I wayted this night on my Lady O'Bryan to know her honour's commands, who had nothing but that all her family were very well and prayed for your Excellencyes safe returne. I most humbly beg your Excellencyes pardon for this tedious schroole from him that is, in all humility and perfect obedience, my Lord, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellencyes most humble and gratefull servant,

HENRY BALL.

Yesterday went out of the Downes 3 vessells with soldiers for France.

R $\frac{\text{Oct. 23.}}{\text{Nov. 2.}}$

No. 120.—From Sir Christopher Musgrave, Knt.[1]

My Lord, London, Oct. 10th, 1673.

I have had the honour of receiveing yours of the 10th instant, stilo novo, and am very sorry your affaires will deprive us of the happines of your company this Session, wherein business of so great importance must be transacted, and, as the face of affaires seeme to mee, requires great judgment and temper, which God Almighty grant; though I feare some heate may appeare, yet I doubt not but the principles of loyallity and duty will be retained, which will abate the insolency of the Dutch, if grounded upon no better assurance then our abandoning his Majesty in this conjuncture, were our inclinations to peace very strong, that would not be the way to procure it. I shall obey your command in giveing you an account of what falls under my observation, upon confidence you will pardon the imperfections of it. I feare theire is a particular or two which may occasion some warmth; the grant to inable Newark to send Burgesses, the power of election being lodged in the Mayor and Aldermen and not in the Freeholders, which some are prepared to assert is not in his Majestyes power to grant, alleadging the consequences may be great, for, if the power of electing shall not be in the Freemen, then it may be lodged in as few as his Majesty pleases. The other is the writing of letters by great men for the electing a burgess for York.

What understanding is amongst the great ones you are better acquainted with. My Father in every letter presents his most humble service to you, and is much afflicted that infirmities will

[1] M.P. for Carlisle, and son of Sir Philip Musgrave, Baronet, M.P. for Westmerland. Andrew Marvell describes them in his "Seasonable Argument, &c." 1677, the father as having "a regiment of foot, Governor of Carlisle, giving him in fee-farm rents 6000*l.*," and the son as "Captain of a foot company, 200*l.* a year pension, and to succeed his father in the government of Carlisle."

not allow him to be here this Session, the reason being very bad. I was in Yorkshire, where Sir John Dawney frequently remembred you, so did Sir John Newton. In my returne be pleased to favour mee with the knowledg of what affaires you judg mee worthy to be trusted with. Believe it, none is more truely yours then, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient and humble servant,

CH. MUSGRAVE.

My wife presents you with her most humble service, and craves your blessing for your Godson.[1]

Indorsed,
SIR C. MUSGRAVE.

R Oct. 23. Nov. 2.

No. 121.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 10 October, 1673.

Did not your Excellencies command oblige me to write by every post, I should think my selfe excused at this time, not knowing any thing of news to communicate to your Ex^cy, and now the discourse of the Towne begins to abate to the near approach of the 20. of October, makeing people, through an eager expectation of that time, silent in the interim. The Parliament men begin already to come to Towne, and some of them, as is said, come prepared with complaints of grievances and miscarriages, but it is hoped will coole againe when better informed. Part of those troops designed for France passed two or three days since in three vessells through the Downes, and are by this time I believe landed at Calais. Some of the French shipps are still remaineing in the Downes; that man of war which came aground and was afterwards gott of, though she

[1] Joseph Musgrave, son of Sir Christopher by his second wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Francklyn of Willesdon, co. Midds. He was subsequently M.P. for Cockermouth, 1713, and died unmarried in 1757.

was very leaky, is comeing into the river of Chatham to repaire. The whole squadron sailed on Wednesday againe from the place they were at ankor beyond St. Helen's point, but the wind has ever since been so bare that they cannot be gott farr. The weather has indeed been very unkind to them, for from Falmouth they write, that a man of warr of 80 guns, who was separated from the rest of the fleet, was come in there very muche torne, haveing lost all her ankors.

Wee now expect very suddainely the arrivall of our new Dutchesse, and to see her about the 24. of this month at Dover.

This evening the King returned from Windsor, where he hath been since Wednesday last. I waited this day upon Sir Robert Southwell about your Ex^cy's arrears in the Prize Office and Councell Chamber; he told me they could not yet gett them paid, but hoped they should very quickly.

I humbly beg your Ex^cys pardon, and am with all duty and submission, my Lord, your Excellency's most faithfull, obedient, and most obliged servant,

R. Yard.

℟ Oct. 2. Nov. 2.

No. 122.—From Henry Ball.

May it please your Excellency, [Whitehall, Oct. 13, 1673.]

Just now Mr. Prowse, my Lord Clifford's kinsman, tells me his lord has been given over by the doctors in the country of a fitt of the stone, and that their last letters left him so ill that they expect nothing but his death.[1] I am, in all duty, my Lord,

Your Excellencyes most obedient servant,

H. Ball.

℟ Oct. 23.

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[1] Some letters which follow contain similar statements as to Lord Clifford's illness. There is, however, strong evidence, not mentioned or alluded to in this correspondence, to show that Clifford committed suicide. Evelyn, who was his intimate

No. 123.—From Robert Yard.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 13 October, 1673.

I have your Ex^cys of the 13 instant, N.S., in which your Ex^cy is pleased to command me to furnish my Lady Katherine and Sir Joseph Sheldon with moneys; I suppose your Excellencies mind is that Mr. Newcomb should provide me, and I them, but he expects

friend, believed that he committed suicide, and in his Diary he gives reasons for this belief. Evelyn parted with Clifford, August 18, 1673, and it was a melancholy parting: Clifford was then going into Devonshire. "Taking leave of my Lord Clifford, he wrung me by the hand, and, looking earnestly on me, bad me God b' ye, adding, 'Mr. Evelyn, I shall never see thee more.' 'No!' said I, 'my Lord, what's the meaning of this? I hope I shall see you often, and as great a person again.' 'No, Mr. Evelyn, do not expect it, I will never see this place, this city, or this court again,'" or words of this sound. In this manner, not without almost mutual tears, I parted from him; nor was it long after, but the news was that he was dead; and I have heard from some, who I believe knew, he made himself away, after an extraordinary melancholy. This is not confidently affirmed, but a servant who lived in the house, and afterwards with Sir Robert Clayton, Lord Mayor, did, as well as others, report it; and when I hinted some such thing to Mr. Prideaux, one of his trustees, he was not willing to enter into that discourse. It was reported with these particulars, that, causing his servant to leave him unusually one morning, locking himself in, he strangled himself with his cravat upon his bed-tester: his servant not liking the manner of dismissing him, and looking through the key-hole (as I remember) and seeing his master hanging, broke in before he was quite dead, and taking him down, vomiting a great deal of blood, he was heard to utter these words: "Well, let men say what they will, there is a God, a just God above;" after which he spoke no more. This, if true, is dismal. Really he was the chief occasion of the Dutch war and of all that blood which was lost at Bergen in attacking the Smyrna fleet and that whole quarrel." On the previous 25th of July, Evelyn had visited Clifford at Tunbridge Wells, and found him depressed and desponding. He says of him that he was there "to divert his mind more than his body," and that his loss of office "grieved him to the heart and at last broke it;" and that he was "struggling in his mind." Evelyn says nothing of stone. A. Marvell says of Clifford that he hanged himself.

"Clifford and Hyde before had lost the day;
One hanged himself, and t'other ran away."

(Historical Poem, line 139.)

It is of course possible that both stories may be true, that there may have been illness and suicide also. It will be observed, in later letters, that reference is made

order from your Ex^cy, as I have already writt your Ex^cy. The cloth which your Ex^cy has desired of Sir Joseph Sheldon I will take care shall be sent by the first expresse that goes hence. Wee have but little news here; all I know I will presume to tell your Ex^cy. The Duke of Lauderdaill is goeing in a day or two Commissioner for Scotland, as people say, to be out of sight dureing the Session of Parliament; however, to provide for the worst he has taken out a pardon, in the same forme as some others have done before him. My Lord Clifford is extreame ill at his house in the West Country, his recovery being by some despaired of, and yesterday wee had a report of his being dead, but no body believes it. Sir John Harman lyes also very ill, and it is feared will hardly recover; people in generall are mouch troubled for him and seem very sensible how great the losse of him would be. Sir William Godolphin has lately complained of great unkindnesse shewne by the Court of Spaine to our nation, haveing caused a great many English seamen to be putt into the galley, and other usages which look as if they intended a rupture as well with us as the French.

The 23. of this month it is said our new Dutchesse is expected at Dover; she brings a great Court with her, and is accompanied by her mother and unkle; the people say she brings a great many priests with her, and that sticks very much in their stomacks.

Severall vessells are passed over for Calais with soldiers, but Monsieur Scomberg lyes still at Dover, the yacht that attends him there not dareing to venture over without convoy; the capers are so thick upon our coast, and especially to the northwards, so that our colliers fall dayly into their hands, and truely it is this that onely makes the Citty sensible of the warr, especially the poorer sort, who are most aggrieved by the excessive rates of coales, though the richer complaine too.

to the danger of Clifford from Parliament at its meeting; the town laughed, it is said, at the opportune moment of Clifford's death (No. 124, p. 46). In letter No. 127, p. 50, his illness is mentioned with some doubt, and as if there were another story.

"Portsmouth 12 Oct^r.[1] I advised you when the French fleet sailed about 8 days since; 7 or 8 of them are putt back againe by these violent winds, and are at ankor in sight of this place, a little beyond St. Helen's road; att Spitthead are the Nonesuch and Norwich, bound for Ireland."

"Plymouth 8 Oct^r. Here is arrived the Hope of this place, from Virginia. A French man of warr of 60 guns is come in this day. Another man of warr of the French squadron, from whom they were both separated by bad weather, came in two days since, but was so leaky that she was forced to come into Cattwater to stop her leaks, where she yet lyes."

"Waymouth 11 Oct^r. Yesterday morneing came into Portland road the Marquis de Grancy, Rear-admirall of the French, with 15 ships, of which onely 5 were men of warr. They judge the Count d'Estrees to be in Torbay; the wind is southwest and a storme."

"Deale 12 Oct^r. The 5 ketches with soldiers ride very well in the Downes, as doe all the ships outward bound, in all 60 saile. There are 4 French men of warr, the Nightingale, Morneing Star, and two or 3 ketches."

Coll. Whitley presents your Excellency his most humble service, as does likewise Monsieur de Preix.

I am, with all duty and obligation, my Lord,

Your Excellency's

most faithfull and most obedient servant,

R. Yard.

R $\frac{\text{Oct. 23.}}{\text{Nov. 2.}}$

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[1] Here the writer gives the last reports from Portsmouth, Plymouth, Weymouth, and Deal.

No. 124.—From Henry Ball.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, Oct. 17, 1673.

Since my last on Monday, there has come in no forreigne mayles but one from Holland, so that wee are very silent of affaires abroad, nor is there indeed leasure now for such small things, the Parliament's approach being every man's talke and what they will doe, which whither it may prove well or happy cannot yet be seen, yet, by what may be guessed by the vulgar apprehension of things, it's feared it may not be soe as might be hoped. They say they shall adjourne for a fortnight, to give place to the solemnity of the Duke's marriage (which drawes so nigh as the Court is putting all things in readiness for her reception); what account is given of her underhand is unknown, but it's thought the Duke said right, when he complained of the English as the great calumniators of him abroade, for the people will have it shee is as unhandsome as possible, and that it cannot be a happy match in the least. The Duke has not yett sett the day to goe meete her, wayting for the next letters from France of her arrivall there (which are and may be long hindered by these sadd stormes and ill weather). Mr. Seymour the Speaker, it's said, cannot hold his place, because he is a Privy Councellor, the custome of the house being not to permitt him to come to Court or beare any office without their leave dureing the time of its Session, and it's said also that Sir Thomas Meres shall be the man, though some (though without ground) say it may be Sir Job Charlton again. Their dayly meetings and publicke discourse makes us feare they may come together much heated, pretending severall fresh occasions offerred, as that of my Lord Treasurer, who they say lately recommended his son for a Member of Parliament for Yorke, but the Citty returning him answer that they had made an order amongst themselves that none but a inhabitant among them should be capable of election, my Lord has expressed very much anger, as has also the Duke of

Buckingham, by severall pationate threatening letters which are copyed out and shewn about, to add fuell to the fire.

The feares of a warr with Spaine are so great in the Citty that it's their common crye, Wee shall be ruined if wee doe; the marchants thinkeing it as bad a mischeife as can possibly come to them, and therefore for that reason seeme discontented, and the East Indy Company are also troubled that the prizes should be bought out of their hands by Nelthorpe and Thompson, who they say buy the goods at a very good pennyworth by particular favour, and that with the Jewes money, and they say the King will loose 90,000*l.* by it, though some persons gett sufficiently. It's talked in Towne that the King should, last councell day, just when they rise almost, tell them he found the Members of Parliament began to shew themselves much discontented, and that therefore the next day desired a full board, to consider of some way to satisfye them, he being desirous of nothing more, so that they praise the King for the best of men, but thinke not soe of most of his servants.

On Wednesday at Councell was heard the difference between Mr. Goldesborough and Mr. Aram, about the reversion of the clerkship of the Commons House, which the latter surreptitiously gott passed the Great Seale, while the other was wayting for his docquett at my Lord Treasurer's. Mr. Coventry was very much against Aram, who was proved to have gott itt by surprize, upon which he is ordered to resigne, and Goldesborough's patent for his son to goe on; and Mr. Trumbull the Clerke of the Signett that passed Aram's grant, being called in and askt how he durst doe it when there was in the precedent month another, he, foolishly reflecting on Mr. Coventry, saying he was obliged to doe nothing without a caveat, which so much angered the Secretary that he gott the King to suspend him, and to order that for the future no Clerke of the Signett shall pass anything without both the Secretarys' notice. But George Woodson's petition against the Dean and Chapter of Windsor, about the office of Chapter Clerke, was dismissed the Board with their great resentment.

My Lord Clifford has been, it seemes, troubled so extreamely with the stone, that for 6 dayes nothing could come from him and then a great quantity of blood and water, so that since that they hope he may recover; the Town laught and said if he dyed now it would he in his criticall minuite, for the Parliament would talke with him.

This morning the Duke of Lauderdale went hence for Scotland and leaves not many freinds amongst the people behind him. He was pleased to send his gentleman yesterday to me, to tell me your Excellency promised him the newes; and coming by just as I was with his secretary, he called me, and told his brother that I was one that belonged to the best freind he had; and so with many complyments of great kindness to your Excellency, desired me to send him all the transactions of the Parliament.

My Lord Arlington, the people say, would not be as good as his word to trust them, for this day his pardon was also sealed as ample as any of the others; but every one gives his lordship a very good character, except the Papists, who bite at him most bitterly.

There is great talke of Don Emanuell de Lyra's coming hither, because it's just in the nicke of time, when the Parliament are falling upon the commerce of Spaine, which they say the King has left wholey to them ; and rumours went yesterday everywhere that Monsieur Colbert should be recalled, and the King of France very jealous of us, but all I believe untrue. They say the Parliament men declare they will give his Majesty not a farthing unless they have the management of the warr, and the correction of those that have so grosely abused him in the carrying on this.

Sir John Narborough is gone with a small squadron to disturbe the Dutch fishing on the Dogger Banke, but nothing yett said of the Citty convoy which his Majesty promised them; nay worse, that protections are denyed them for their ships for Spaine and Denmarke. The French fleete are not all gott home yett; but the Towne confidently affirme Martell to be in the Bastile, and that he will be severely punisht, and that the French treachery dayly appeares more palpable to them, their own men not denying itt.

My Lord Mayor elect, Sir William Hooker, was on Tuesday last maryed to a young lady of 25, the daughter of Sir Thomas Bendish, and sister to my Lady Dawes.

This night is a most sadd storme of hayle and raine, and the roads are so deepe and dangerous that they are scarse passable, and all the low lands in Lincolnshire, Norfolke, and Suffolke over flowed.

Mr. John Locke, Secretary to my Lord Chancellor, is made Secretary of the Councell of Trade and Plantations, upon the resignation of Dr. Worsley, and with the same sallery. [1]

I most humbly beg your Excellency to accept of my endeavors to be (as in duty I am bound while I live), my Lord,

Your Excellencyes most gratefull servant,

HENRY BALL.

No. 125.—FROM R. YARD.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 17 October, 1673.

Since my last wee have not received any Flanders letters, and consequently none from your Exc^cy. The cloth your Ex^cy writt for lyes now ready by me, to be conveyed to your Ex^cy by the first oppertunity. The Towne is at present altogeather entertained with discourses concerneing a warr with Spaine, which all conclude wee shall be forced into, for the Spaniards begin to treat us very unkindly, of which my Lord Ambassador Godolphin has had orders to complaine, and to tell that Crowne that in case they intend a rupture likewise with us, his Majesty expects at least they will give the marchants leave to withdraw their effects and time so to doe. In the mean time, it is said, preparation is makeing on this side for a warr; and that the King lately asked Sir Morgan,[2] what he

[1] See vol. i. p. 59, note: but it is probable that Dr. Worsley did not resign for the reason suggested by Bridgman in the letter No. 29 there annotated, viz. religious scruples.

[2] The buccanier Morgan had made a raid from Jamaica on the Spanish settlements in the Central American Isthmus, and committed great ravages, in 1671.

thought of returneing to Jamaica to visitt the Spaniards from thence, as there may be occasion. The Spanish marchants, who have great effects abroad, are very apprehensive that wee shall, of our owne accord, engage in a warr with that Crowne, onely in favor to the French interest, except the Parliament intervene. I was yesterday told by an eminent Parliament man, that there was a project amongst them to breake this union with France, and to make peace with the Dutch, who they think will on those termes give us better conditions then wee can expect by a joint treaty.

Wee shall now very quickly have her Royall Highnesse here; many people are much troubled at the great Court that comes with her, for her mother, unkle, and brother accompany her, which the Earl of Peterborough says he could not prevent,[1] but that they will not stay here above a week or ten days. The portion is 400 thousand crownes, 100 thousand to be paid in hand, and the rest as shall be appointed by the Most Christian King, to whom the matter is referred; the Earl of Peterborough gives her Highnesse a great character of faire, pretty, well shaped, good humoured,[2] &c. so that his letters have begott here a great esteem of her, that is at Court, but the generality of people, as they never are, so cannot now be pleased, and that for two reasons, the one that she is a Roman Catholick, and then that the match is made by the French; and it is in the mouth of every ordinary person, that they wonder the Duke will be obliged to the French King for his wife's portion.

The King has written a letter to my Lord Lieutenant about the suppressing the exorbitancies of Roman Catholicks in that kingdome.[3]

[1] Mary of Modena, in at last consenting to the marriage, made it a condition that her mother should accompany her all the way.

[2] This is what Lord Peterborough wrote of her appearance: "She was tall and admirably shaped; her complexion was of the last degree of fairness, her hair black as jet, so were her eyebrows and her eyes, but the latter so full of light and sweetness, as they did dazzle and charm too. There seemed given to them by nature a power to kill and a power to save; and in the whole turn of her face, which was of the most graceful oval, there were all the features, all the beauty, all that could be great and charming in any human creature."

[3] Ireland.

My Lord Clifford I hear begins to mend, haveing as I told your Ex^cy in my last been very ill of the stone.

The French fleet hath been so extreamely scattered by the late foule weather, that they have hardly ten men of warr togeather; they come by one and two togeather in severall of the Westerne ports, but doe not hear of any lost. The death of Sir John Harman is much lamented.[1]

I am, with all duty and submission, my Lord, your Excellency's most faithfull, most obedient, and most humble servant,

R. YARD.

No. 126.—FROM W. BRIDGMAN.

My Lord, Whitehall, October 20th, '73.

This morning the Parliament mett, and are prorogued till this day sevennight; but before the House of Commons was called for up they entered upon a debate concerning the *Duke of York's*[1] *match*, and voted an addresse to bee presented to the King by the Privy Councellors of the House, that the *consummation* of it might *not goe on*, nor *the Duke of Yorke* [be] *married* to *any Papist;* how farre *they would* have *proceeded*, or *will* when *they meet next*, *God* knowes; *to* mee *this* seemes *but* a *very ill beginning*, though wee are *promised satisfaction* in the matter of *religion* will sett *all things right againe.* This *businesse* was carried on *by Powell*, *Birch*, *and Sir Robert Howard.*

The last letters wee had from your Ex^cy were of the 23^rd, since the receipt of which two Flanders mailes have come in, but brought no Cologne letters. I have putt my Lord Arlington in minde to

[1] Sir John Harman, appointed Admiral of Great Britain, 1665, defeated and destroyed a combined fleet of Dutch and French, and burned the French Admiral ship, in 1667.

[2] The words in italics are in cypher in the original.

move the King in Mr. Harthop's suit about licences to fish, which you recommended to his Lordship, but the King absolutely refused it, saying he would upon occasion doe Mr. Harthop some other good turne. I am with all truth and respect, my Lord,

Your Excellency's

most faithfull and most humble servant,

Wm. Bridgeman.

R Nov. $\frac{7}{17}$.

No. 127.—From John Richards.

My Lord, Whitehall, October 20, 1673.

Knowing your Ex^cy receives by this ordinary an account of our Parliamentary newes, I shall not trouble you further with it, and indeed wee being soe infinitely destitute of letters now as wee have seldome beene, there is little I know worth observing to your Ex^cy.

I have seene a letter this night that sayes my Lord Clifford dyed on Friday night or Saturday morneing last, after haveing suffered much by a strangury, and (as supposed upon the violence of it) by a great losse of blood; the truth hereof I will not absolutely averre, but I know both the writer and person that received the newes to bee persons of good credit, and that most of the Court believe it.[1]

My Lord sayes the King cannot bee induced to grant such licenses for fishing as Mr. Hartop desires, which I am sory for, they being recomended by your Ex^cy, and being desirous in all occasions to approve my selfe, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

Jo: Richards.

R $\frac{7}{17}$.

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[1] This implies that there was some doubt of the correctness of this story of Lord Clifford's death. See note pp. 40-42.

128.—From Sir Christopher Musgrave, Knt.

My Lord, London, October 20th, 1673.

In observance of your commands I adventure to give you my imperfect observations. Yesterday it was made knowne that wee should be prorogued till this day sennith, the generall reasons declared it was unusuall to grant money twice in one Session, and if my memory ffaile mee not, a little before our last adjournment, upon an apprehension of the Bankers' petitioning that their debts might be taken into the House's consideration, it was resolved, that no motion should be made that Session ffor any more money.

In the next place the Bill of Ease, by reason of the Lords adhæreing and the House of Commons doeing the like, nothing could give life to the Bill but a prorogation.[1] I ffeare these reasons did not satisfy all, but phancyed some more weighty (which lay under deck) was the occasion of a prorogation. This dissatisfaction soone discovered it selfe, ffor no sooner did the Speaker[2] come to the House (which was after ten a'clock), but the old corner with great warmth called him to the chaire, but he yeilded no obedience to that summons; at length Mr. Powell[3] declared that if he would not take

[1] Compare with this account of the reasons for the short prorogation, one by Sir Gilbert Talbot in a later letter, No. 140, of November 13. Sir Gilbert adds another reason: to revive a Bill for paving the streets of London.

[2] Edward Seymour, Treasurer of the Navy, evidently wishing to oblige the King's government and not facilitate a debate. The current story is that Shaftesbury, then Chancellor, but very adverse to the Duke of York's marriage, and knowing the intentions of the leaders of the country party in the Commons, caused delay in the Lords, in order to give time for an address from the Commons against the match. (Burnet's Own Time, i. 361. Life of James I. 485.)

[3] Henry Powle, one of the chiefs of Opposition. Burnet says of him: "Littleton and Powle were the men that laid the matters of the House with the greatest dexterity and care. Powle was very learned in precedents and Parliament journals, which goes a great way in these debates, and, when he had time to prepare himself, he was a clear and strong speaker." (Own Time, i. 389.)

the chaire, he would address his speech to him in the place where he sat, which forced him to take the chaire, though others cryed ffor prayers ffirst, but Mr. Robert Thomas [1] declared that was but a ceremony; no sooner was the Speaker in the chaire, but Mr. Powell declared the whole nation was ffull of the resolution of his Highnes to marry the Princess of Modena, who being a Papist, gave so great disturbance to the minds of the Commons of England, that he desired an address might be made to his Majesty to prevent the consummating of it, which was seconded by Birch [2] with a Presbyterian zeale; Sir Robert Ca[rre] made a motion to divert it, but it was thirded by Robert Thomas. Most of the Privy Councellors spake, though very short, tending to divert it; Sir Robert Howard [3] expressed a great satisffaction in the motion; My Lord St. John [4] he spoke likewise; at length the question was put, and very ffew negatives.[5] The vote being sent you, I will not give the trouble of a repetition. Why the Black Rod stayed so long, or that speeches were not extended to prevent a question, is above my reach. What effects this warme beginging may produce, exceeds my capacity.

[1] Probably Sir Robert Thomas.

[2] Colonel Birch, a leader of Opposition. He had begun life as a carrier. Burnet says of him : "He was the roughest and boldest speaker in the House, and talked in the language and phrases of a carrier, but with a bearing and eloquence that was always acceptable. I heard Coventry say he was the best speaker to carry a popular assembly before him that he had ever known." (Own Time, i. 389.) The hero of a recent volume issued to the Camden Society.

[3] Sir Robert Howard, who thus opposed the Government, was an official. He had been Secretary to the Lord Treasurer, Clifford, and had been lately made Auditor of the Exchequer.

[4] Eldest son of the Marquis of Winchester; he succeeded to the title in the next year, and he was ultimately created Duke of Bolton by William III. He was now a zealous member of the country party, and represented Hampshire.

[5] The resolution thus passed was "That an address be made to his Majesty, by such members of the House as are of his Majesty's Privy Council, to acquaint his Majesty that it is the humble desire of this House that the intended marriage of his Royal Highness with the Duchess of Modena be not consummated, and that he may not be married to any person but of the Protestant religion." There is no report of this debate by Grey; and this is the only known account of the discussion.

I hartily wish that all may tend to the happiness of King and nation. I will endeavour to discharge a good conscience, and to approve my self, my Lord,

Your Lordshipp's most obedient and faithfull servant,

C. M[USGRAVE].

The House was very full. My Lord Clifford, our old friend, is dead.

Indorsed, SIR C. MUSGRAVE.

R Nov. $\frac{17}{27}$.

129.—FROM WM. BRIDGEMAN.

My Lord, Whitehall, October 27th, '73.

By Mr. Bedford, who arrived here upon Saturday morning, I had the favour of your Ex^cys of the $\frac{17}{27}$, and have according to your desires gott a passe for a ship of Rotterdam to bring over your Rhenish wine. You will finde it limited onely to that commodity, the King being unwilling to give any kinde of countenance to their trading here, and so not permitt any thing to bee brought over but what may bee onely for private use, and not as a merchandize. I reserve the sending of the passe till our next expresse.

Before this come to hand I presume you will have read some of mine giving you an account that the King absolutely refused the granting of any licences to fish, which you recomended as a suit in behalfe of Mr. Hartopp of Antwerp.

This day the Parliament mett again; and after the King and my Lord Chancellor's speeches (which are enclosed in my Lord's letter), the House adjourned till Thursday. The Commons were debating about their Speaker, whether it was consistent with that place to bee a Privy Councellor and Treasurer of the Navy, but upon the whole he was confirmed in his place.[1]

[1] See the debate in the Parliamentary History (iv. 589) from Grey's Debates. A previous short discussion on the King's Speech is reported by Grey, but the report not copied into the Parliamentary History; the further consideration of the King's

I hardly know how the businesse of the Duke's match stands, and therefore can give you no kinde of account about that matter, but the generall discourse is that it goes on. I am with all truth, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most faithfull humble servant,

Wm. Bridgeman.

℞ Nov. $\frac{9}{19}$.

No. 130.—From Sir Thomas Player.

Sir, Guildhall, Nov. 3d, 1673.

Within a weeke I have received two letters from your Excellencye, the one dated the 17th and the other the 7th and 17th; the latter came to my hands a weeke after the other; in both you are pleased with great earnestnesse to provoke mee to use my little interest that affaires may goe on without disturbance. Your Excellency may be assured that I have not nor shall not faile to doe this, but I feare the worst. Yours of the 7th, which came to my hands the 30th, mentions some kind of addresse made to the King from the Cittie, of which I shall now give you an account. About four or five months agone there was an addresse prepared by a Committee of

Speech was deferred till Friday, October 31; the Government had wished for immediate thanks. The objection to Seymour as Speaker, because he was Privy Councillor and Treasurer of the Navy, was summarily disposed of; the objections were urged by Sir Thomas Littleton, Sir Thomas Clarges, and Powle; Mr. W. Harbord objected to him also for immoral life and gambling. Seymour had been first elected Speaker, February 18, 1673, on Mr. Serjeant Charlton's resigning from ill health. The objection that he was a Privy Councellor seems then to have been thought of, but not formally raised. Sir W. Coventry writes to Mr. Thynne (afterwards Viscount Weymouth), April 12, 1673, "Mr. Speaker being of the Council is, I suppose, *primæ impressionis*, and cannot consist with a late practice, if not a rule, of the Speaker's being a stranger at Whitehall while the Parliament sits, which the late Speaker excused upon his necessary attendance on his Royal Highness." (Papers at Longleat, quoted in Christie's Life of Shaftesbury, Appendix to vol. 2, p. lxx). The late Speaker was Sir Edward Turnour, Attorney-General to the Duke of York, and also the King's Solicitor-General for a year before he ceased to sit as Speaker.

Common Councell to his Majestie; in it severall perticulars were mentioned wherein the King was petitioned for releife. I have sent you the coppy inclosed; for this paper I was charged with carriing on seditious designes in London. That I was the contriver of it I doe owne, but I dare stand or fall by your judgment as to what is contained in it. When it was read in Common Councell, some of the Aldermen opposed the delivery of it at that time, alleadgeing it was unseasonable, and that our enemyes might take advantage from it; but the Common Councell was of another mind, beleeveing the loyalty and dutifullnesse of it in all the parts of it, and the resolution in the last part to stand by his Majestie against all enemyes, what ever would tend to the advantage of his Majesties affaires rather then otherwise: but the next Court of Aldermen, after the Common Councell, it was resolved to lay the addresse aside, and this was such a breach upon the Common Councell as hath not beene knowne. About a month since, some clamour beginning to arise for want of coales, the Court of Aldermen began to thinke of the addresse, and of a sudden order'd it should be carryed to the King. My Lord Mayor[1] delivered it, and told the King it was for coales a convoy, a convoy for coales; and his Majestie, concluding it was for nothing else, discourst the matter of a convoy, and soe sent us away. This something discomposed the Cittie, but his Majestie being minded of it by myselfe, and some others, hath most graciously referred it to a Committee of the Councell. I shall not trouble your Excellencye with what is done in the House, because I feare I shall but repeat what others better informed will send you.[2] On Wensday night there was a great meeting of Parliament men about uniteing, there haveing beene jealousies among the country gentlemen since the businesse of my

[1] Sir George Waterman.

[2] It would appear from the following account of Parliament proceedings that Player was now a member of the House of Commons. He had perhaps been elected for the City on some vacancy since the beginning of the Parliament. See note, vol. i. p. 68.

Lord Clifford. Thursday morning [1] the House satt, and, by what was done in reference to the addresse to the King about the stopping the Duke of York's match, I perceive the union was accomplisht.

Wensday, being my Lord Mayor's day,[2] his Majestie, the Queene, the Duke of Yorke, his two daughters, Prince Rupert, my Lord Chancellor, Lord Treasurer, Duke of Buckingham, Ormond, and many other Lords, with many Ladyes, came to see the show in Cheapside, and then to Guildhall to dinner. I ledd the Artillery Company, which was more glorious than ever. I waited at the King's table after I had made my guard for the King to passe through to Guildhall, and with seeing the King's meat served up and sett upon the table I was sufficiently tyred, for there was as great a crowd as ever I saw.

Friday, the 31st, was spent till 5 a'clock afternoone about the King's speech, and particularly about raising of mony. Monday, the 3rd instant, the House was upon greevances, and voted the standing army to be one. A Bill is prepareing for a test for both Houses.[3] By common report the first person like to feele the weight of the House of Commons' anger is Lauderdale: who will be next I cannot tell. I finde the minds of the people strangely elevated upon the votes of the House. The Duke of Yorke goes within a day or two to Dover to meet his new Dutchesse: shee will come very unwellcome to the people. The papers your Excellencye hath entrusted mee with I have shewed to severall active persons, and to some considerable Parliament men; they all acknowledge the insolencye of the Dutch, and I beleeve would be willing to doe anything to abate their pride, separate from the French; but the

[1] Thursday, October 30. A message from the King, in answer to the former address of the House of Commons (Oct. 20) against the Duke of York's match, declaring it to be too late to stop the marriage, it was resolved by a majority of 184 to 88 to present a second address to the King concerning the match.

[2] The inauguration of Sir Robert Hanson.

[3] The Commons had resolved on Thursday, October 30, that a Bill be prepared for a General Test, to distinguish between Protestants and Papists; and those that shall refuse to take it, be incapable to enjoy any office, military or civil, or to sit in either House of Parliament, or to come within five miles of the Court.

English nation is not to be cured of their aversion to that people; terrible things were spoken in the House of Commons against them, and the same things are said all over the Kingdome.

I hope your Excellencye will pardon the length and the rudenesse of this paper. Were I sure it would come safe to your hands I could write much more.

Your Excellencyes most faithfull and obedient servant,

THO: PLAYER.

My wife presents her most humble service to your Ex^cy^. My Lady Robinson came to towne the 1^st^ instant. Sir John hath seene the papers; he sends you his service.

No. 131.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 3 November, 1673.

In my last I told your Excellency of the arrivall of a Flanders maile. The next morneing wee received Mr. Benson's ordinary news paper, with a letter from your Excellency which by accident were left behind at the Post Office when the other letters were brought from thence the night before. I intended to have been this morneing with Mr. Floyd about the account of your Excellencyes moneys in the Exchequer, but was hindered by reason wee had a meeting here, and this afternoon he was gone abroad. I hope by the next to give your Excellency an account of the payment of the moneys due to your Excellency out of the Prize Office for that account Sir Robert Southwell gave me when I was last to waite upon him.

Mr. Ball sends your Excellency the Journall of the Proceedings of the Parliament, so that there remaines not much for me to write; yet I hope your Excellency will pardon my troubleing you with an unnecessary repetition if I presume to tell you that his Majestie was pleased to deferre receiving the addresse of the House of Commons till this afternoone, when the whole House attended him with

it and received this answer,—That his Majestie would take it into his consideration and give them a speedy answer. This morneing it was ordered that an addresse should be made to the King, shewing his Majestie the inconvenience of keeping so many troopes on foot, and accordingly a Committee was appointed to prepare it. So soone as this businesse of the marriage is over, it is said they will consider of the warr, and particularly of the carriage of the French dureing it. In the meantime it is said that to-morrow the King will be in the House of Lords in his robes, and that the Parliament will be prorogued till after Christmas.

On Wednesday last her Royall Highnesse[1] left Paris, and on Wednesday next will be at Calais. On Saturday the Countesse of Peterborough, with a traine of above 20 coaches and the Duke's troop of Life Guards attending, went out of towne towards Dover; and on Thursday the Duke will follow himselfe with his Court.

Our letters from all the ports complaine very much of the great numbers of capers that are upon the coasts, and the colliers and other vessells that are daily taken by them.

I have your Excellencies cloth still by me, and mean to keep it till an expresse goes, for it may easely be putt up in a portmantle, and so my Lady Katherine ordered me. But for the usquabach, that will be sent with the sack by Mr. Page. I am, with all humble duty,

My Lord, your Excellencyes
Most faithfull and obedient Servant,
R. YARD.

Sir Robert Carr presents his humble services to your Excellency, and desires your excuse that he does not write this night to your Excellency, which he will not faile to doe by the next ordinary.

℞ Nov. $\frac{1}{2}\frac{3}{3}$.

[1] The destined Duchess of York.

No. 132.—From Sir Christopher Musgrave, M.P.

May it please your Excellency, Nov. 3, 1673.

I have had the honour of yours of the 3rd *stilo novo*, and shall deliver yours to Mr Wharron when he comes to towne. The votes I know are exactly sent you, theirfor will not trouble you with repetition; but upon Fryday as much sharpnes was expressed against the war with Holland and the alliance of France as the spirits of our corner could conceive.[1] Great complaints against the army, and such characters fixed upon the military men as would almost discourage any person who regarded his honour to be concerned in an imploy. Privy Councellors escaped not their fury, being termed villanous Councellors, and that one who declared the declaration for liberty of conscience lawfull was upon the adjournement of the Parliament prefferred to the 3d office of the nation, and another had the government of a kingdome.[2] This day severall oppressions committed by the soldiery innumerated, and to heighten all, that religion and property could never be in danger but by a standing army, theirfor voted that this standing army was a greveance, and a committee appointed to draw up reasons for an address to be presented to his Majestie. Things are carryed with that violence that nothing at present can give any check to their passion. This afternoone the House attended his Majestie with their address and reasons to prevent the consummating of the mariage with the Dutches of Modena. His returne was, he would speedily take it into consideration, and returne us an answer.

The Lords have orders to be in their roabes to-morrow; so that it is concluded wee shall have his Majesties answer there. Some apprehend a prorogation. Pray God direct his Majestie, for to my poore reason things never looked with a more dreadfull aspect. If

[1] In a debate on the King's Speech, October 31.

[2] This was in a speech of Mr. Powle. The allusions are to the appointment of the Earl of Anglesey to be Lord Privy Seal, and Lauderdale being High Commissioner for Scotland.

the Session continue, I believe particular persons will be brought upon the stage. Some fancy Lauderdale will lead the van.

Your absence hath dispersed our club, but severall of them present service to you. All hapines to you is the earnest desire of,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble servant,

C. MUSGRAVE.

The currant sence of the House is for peace, without preserveing our alliance with France.

R Nov. $\frac{13}{23}$.

133.—FROM JOHN RICHARDS.

My Lord, Whitehall, Nov. 4, '73.

What hath past in Parliament since his Lordshipp's last your Ex^cy will see in the inclosed accounts, and what was exceedingly surprising, both to the Lords and Commons, this day. Your Ex^cy will find by his Maj^ties speech, that they were this day prorogued to the 7^th of January next.

The Duke's marriage with the Duchesse of Modena will now goe on. Her stay hath been somewhat longer at Paris then was expected, upon some small indisposition; but shee is now looked for suddainly, and preparations are making for her reception accordingly.

I am ever,

My Lord, your Ex^cies most humble Servant,

JO. RICHARDS.

No. 134.—From T. Derham.

My Lord, London, 5th Nov. '73.

The honor of your Ex^cys of the 10^th Oct. I cannot forbear to acknowledge, though what I esteeme a gratitude is I feare no other than impertinencie and offence, all the leisure the obstinate Dutch doe give not beeing sufficient to excuse the folly of a senceless letter where onely weighty buissines ought to enter; but my comfort is I am not troublesome without example whilst your Ex^cy has either French or Irish Correspondent, and therefore hope t'escape in the generall pardon. Your Ex^cyes becomeing Principall Secretary of State (I must take leave to contradict) has beene ever likely, and though now at this instant embarrasseing affaires doe make the time uncertaine, yet of necessity it ere long must happen, and 'tis no wonder if his Majestie haveing so much need of your Ex^cy every way doe pause awhile where to fix you. In the interim I have let Mr. Platt know his happynes in being in your Ex^cyes esteeme, which beeing secur'd of I looke upon him as a man growne rich, and may forbear all further endeavors for fortune or felicyty.

Newse to your Ex^cy who is the centre of it (all lines of that nature from the world's circumference beeing drawne to you,) will bee no less a vanity in mee than a trouble to your Ex^cy, but because trifles may escape better intellygences that may yet at this time bee agreeable to your Ex^cy, I'le give your Ex^cy an account not of what's true but what I heare reported soe to bee; and to beginn with the newest and most considerable:—Yesterday the Parlement was progu'd after a long debate in councell whether that or a dissolution, their heate being such that they made an Adress to the King to obstruct the match with the now approching Dutchess; humble enough all but the conclusion, in which was a kinde of threat if denied. They voted the like for haveing all the Army in effect except the Guards disbanded: that no mony should bee given his Majestie untill the last tax was quite expir'd, nor then

unless the Dutch were obstinate to all reasonable propositions. There was brought into the House an account of foure hundred thousand pounds given away since last Session, of which Duchesses of Cleavland and Portsmouth had the greatest share ; this information was given by Sir Thomas Clerges ; after this they were goeing to descend to perticulers to enquire into the cause of the warr and league with France, and 'tis said would have fallen severely on D. of Lauderdaill and my Lord,[1] and against the latter Articles I heard were prepar'd, and to have beene or were brought in by Sir Charles Wheeler,[2] now a discontented Colonel, but the unexpected Prorogation blasted it in the budd. A great many are peevish in both houses, even such as your Ex^cy would scarce suspect, all which perversenes will make your Ex^cyes taske the greater with the Dutch. Discord in the Court contributed much to the putteing of the Parliament out of tune, for some of the harshest notes were struck by their owne handes. D: B.[3] laboured to bee call'd to an account or impeached, by that meanes to bring my Lord[4] in, which might have prov'd sufficiently to his owne disadvantage, and like the envious man hee could have been contented to loose an eye himselfe to leave his enemie none. The Chancellor[5] has now, as well as at all other times, showne himselfe to bee a man of wisdome, and 'tis thought his house is the best place without comparison to know where the winde standes. There is a great difference too on a very small occasion between Duchess of Cleaveland and my Lord.[6] Shee refuseing her sonn should goe to Eweston

[1] Earl of Arlington.

[2] Sir Charles Wheeler was member for Cambridge University, where he had succeeded Sir Richard Fanshawe. He does not appear to have been respected by any party. Marvell describes him, in 1677, "a foot captain who once promised himself to be Master of the Rolls, now Governor of Nevis." In 1672 he was recalled from the government of St. Christopher for great indiscretions. (Evelyn's Diary, November 14, 27, 1672.)

[3] The Duke of Buckingham.

[4] The Earl of Arlington.

[5] The Earl of Shaftesbury.

[6] The Duchess of Cleveland's son, Henry Fitzroy, made successively Earl of

with my Lord, his Lordshipp obtain'd leave of the King and tooke him with him. Since hee has attempted to have him in his owne tuition, but in vaine, for shee will not part with him nor cares for any education other then what nature and her selfe can give him, which will bee sufficient accomplishment for a married man.

Great preparations of fine clothes and thinges are makeing to receive the Duchess [of Modena], who, should shee arrive to-night, that madnes has a lycence,[1] shee would certainely bee martyr'd, for the comon people here and even those of quallyty in the country beleeve shee is the Pope's eldest daughter!

Mr. Montegue and his Lady[2] begin already to live like man and wife, neither caring a rush for the other, which makes her marrying of him more and more to be wondered at, and that for him shee should refuse not onely Mr. Savill but Mr. Gray too; the reason some give is this, that Mr. Gray was soe unfortunate as to have an uncle that had no—ergo—but that Mr. Montegue has a sister that has one. I will trouble your Ex^cy^ no further with the relation of Ladies or Amourettes, for I heare your Ex^cyes^ are well provided there.

I kisse your Ex^cyes^ hands, and am as much as 'tis possible for man to be,

My Lord,
Your Ex^cyes^ humble and obedient Servant,
T. Derham.

Euston and Duke of Grafton, was betrothed to Arlington's daughter, August 1, 1672; the girl being then four years old, and the boy not yet nine. The pair were remarried, November 6, 1679. This marriage of Arlington's daughter is referred to in Nahum Tate's Second Part of Absolom and Achitophel:—

"His age with only one mild heiress blest,
In all the bloom of smiling nature drest;
And blest again to see his flower allied
To David's stock, and made young Othniel's bride."

[1] Being the anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot.

[2] Ralph Montagu and the Countess dowager of Northumberland.

No. 135.—From Sir William Lockhart.

My Lord, London, 6 Novr, '73.

The account of his Majesties proroguing the Parliament, and the reasons that moov'd him to it, will come to you from better hands. I believe it was no small surpryse upon many; it's too early to say any thing touching the effects this short recesse may produce. I pray God they may answer the expectations of all such who intend nothing besyds the honor and happinesse of his Majestie and the good of his people. The Dutchesse of Yorke is not yett come the length of Calais. My regiment waits at Dover for her reception, after which it embarques for Dieppe or St. Vallery. I can yett say nothing concerning my owne leaving this place, nor shall I give your Excy further truble, being, with all respect and faithfulnesse,

My Lord,

Your Excys most humble and most obedient Servant,

Will. Lockhart.

℟ 16.

No. 136.—From John Richards.

My Lord, Whitehall, Nov. 7, '73.

Since his Lordshipp's last my Lord hath received duplicats onely of the dispatch by Mr. Fairfax, soe, having nothing materiall to write, commands mee onely to send you the duplicate of his last. With it I take leave to enclose likewise the print of his Majesties speech at the prorogation of the Parliament, and the rather I send it because it differs much from what I sent in writing by my last, which past for current out of your servant's letters as taken from some of the inferiour clerks that serve at the Parliament, which was much to the King's disadvantage.

The indisposition of the Duchesse of Modena is the onely reason

shee is not now in England, shee being now expected with some impatience and the match past further dispute.

I am entirely,
My Lord,
Your Excellencyes most humble servant,
Jo. Richards.

By $\frac{16}{26}$.

No. 137.—From the Right Hon. Henry Coventry.

My Lord, White Hall, November $\frac{7}{17}$, '73.

I am debtor to your Excellency for two, one of the $\frac{10}{20}$ Oct. and another of $\frac{28\text{ Oct.}}{7\text{ Nov.}}$ by Mr. Fairfax. I hope both you and your collegue will excuse mee if I have not beene exact in my correspondence during these two sessions. I have not onely the excuse of having more buissiness then I and wiser men could manage, but so little of what was comfortable that I tooke no joy in giving you the accompt of it. The truth is our adversarys have once spoke truth, but I hope they will do it no more; and the people have received such strange impressions as to religion and property that no professions of his Maj^{ty} of securing them for the future could at present cure the umbrages. His Majesty therefore thought fitt to prorogue the Parliament till the 7th of January, and in the meane time, both by proclamations through the kingdome and an exemplary execution in his owne family of such orders, so that wee hope they may at the next meeting bee in a better temper; however his Majesty beleeveth to have a scheme fayre enough of continewing the warre if the Dutch continue obstinate this next campagne, and by that time wee hope wee or they shall returne to our witts, and they accept of good conditions when offered, or the King and Parliament come to a good understanding and make them take harder, for wee are certainly assurd theyre wants are very great in Holland.

The Dutchesse of Yorke is yet at Paris and indisposed; the Duke's servants and guards are all attending her landing at Dover.

Wee are in greate expectation of the issue of the seige of Bon, and what the two armys will do upon it.

I am, with very great syncerity,
My Lord,
Your Ex^cys most faithfull and most humble servant,
HENRY COVENTRY.

$\frac{16}{20}$.

No. 138.—FROM SIR CHRISTOPHER MUSGRAVE, M.P.

My Lord, London, Nov. 10.

I have had the honour of receiveing yours of the 10th *st. nov.* and likewise yours by Mr. Fairfax, though I have not been so fortunate as to see him, and must ever acknowledg your great favour in allowing mee the knowledg of affaires abroad; I have ambition enough to beg the continuance of it, if it might not be to great a trouble. The displaceing my Lord Chancellor,[1] and giveing the seales to Sir Hennich Finch with the title of Lord Keeper, you have an account of from better hands; and, if report speak truth, many more must follow, time will shew the certainety. It shall be my prayer that all changes in ministers of state and others may tend to the good of King and kingdom. To my poore apprehension this juncture of affaires requires the wisest councells. Severall of your acquaintance are moveing into the country; I wish they carry and returne with such resolutions as suits the exigency of affaires. I shall continue in towne ready to obey your commands as becomes

Your Lordship's
Most obedient and humble servant,
C. MUSGRAVE.

℞ $\frac{20}{30}$.

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[1] The Great Seal was taken from the Earl of Shaftesbury, November 9, 1673.

No. 139.—From Sir Thomas Player.

Sir, Monday, Novr. 10th, 1673.

The enclosed papers were sealed up the 3rd instant to be sent to your Excellency, but I understanding as I was sending my letter to the post-house that some new matter was like to occur, I forbore. Tuesday, the 4th, his Majesty prorogued the Parliament to the 7th of January. Wensday, the 8th of November, the members of the House mett, though not as a House, at St Margarett's Westminster, where Dr. Stillingfleet preacht before them. That night there was more bonfires from Charingcrosse to Whitechapple then had beene in 30 yeares before. The young fry made the effigies of popes, carried them in procession, and there burnt them. Sunday, the seales were taken from my Lord Chancellor, and Mr Attorney-Generall is made Lord Keeper. It is said the preferment was first offered to my Lord Chiefe Justice Hales.[1] This day wee heare my Lord Cornbury[2] and Sir Robert Howard are removed from their places. People say alsoe Mr Garraway is removed from the Custome house, and Sir Tho. Littleton from the Victualling office.[3] We are in expectation of a severe proclamation against popery. If I tell you the people are melancholy and dejected, I tell you true ; but they are quickly raised, and as soone deprest. I received a letter from you of the 31st October and 10th of November. I have shewed that and the former paper of your Excellency's to severall good and wise men, and I find that they have given extraordinary satisfaction as to the insolencye of the Dutch, and the justnesse of his Majesty's proceedings. I beseech God deliver his Majesty out of his difficulties both at home and abroad, and preserve him to a good and great old age ! This is the prayer of all people, and a prayer that is attended with great earnestnesse and importunitie. The

[1] Sir Matthew Hale.

[2] Eldest son of the ex-Lord Chancellor Clarendon, who died in December of next year, 1674.

[3] These rumours were not correct.

Citie of London come not short of any party of the nation in their most ardent affection to his Majesties person and government ; and this I can confidently affirme, because my interest and converse lyes among all sorts. Within these 8 days past I have had the opportunitie twice of being in company with severall Parliament men. I finde them in a great amazement, and that's all.

Wee have had various reports about the Dutchesse of Modena, her stop at Paris, her sicknesse, and some other circumstances. But the common people talke anything, for every carman and porter is now a statesman ; and indeed the coffee-houses are good for nothing else. It was not thus when wee dranke nothing but sack and clarett, or English beere and ale. These sober clubbs produce nothing but scandalous and censorious discourses, and at these nobody is spared.

'Tis time I am sensible to dismisse your Excellencye from the trouble of impertinencye, which this is filled with ; but before I doe it I must present you with the service of Sir Francis Chaplin and Sir Edward Massey, and with that most humble duty and service of

Your Excellencyes most faithfull servant,

T[HOMAS] P[LAYER.]

No. 140.—From Sir Gilbert Talbot.[1]

My Lord, Whitehall, Nov^r 13, '73.

I am in the condition of a sinner that hath neglected confession soe long that he is at last afraid to come to it. Such is my case, for not having returned an earlyer acknowledgment of your favourable letter, and for having failed in my promise of frequent writing; but I have thus much to say for my self : In the beginning of the summer I designed a journey into Ireland, and pursued it as far as West Chester, where I mett with obstinate contrary winds that, fearing I might not returne soone enough to the Par-

[1] Sir Gilbert Talbot, knight, M.P. for Plymouth, Master of the Jewel Office, a courtier. He had been ambassador to Denmark.

liament, I layd aside that purpose and returned to my country cell at Harrow, where I continued till the 16th of Oct^r. From thence I had neither matter nor opportunity to write to your Excellency, and empty compliment (I know) could not have bin acceptable to you amidst your greate employments. When I came to the House and saw black clouds arising, I was not willing to write by way of conjecture till I might more clearly perceive which way they would breake; nor was I soe much troubled for want of intelligence before as I am now for superabundance of angry matter. His Majesty, upon the first opening of the Parliament, made a gracious speech to both Houses, such as might have put them into better humour; but the Commons not only refused to returne him thanks (as was pressed by those of the Privy Council), but fell fiercely upon a debate to put an absolute negative upon money, which lasted till 5 of the clock at night, and then Sir William Coventry came with his subtile allay to make the vote pass in these words: not to graunt any supply till the 18 moneths tax were expired, unless the obstinacy of the Hollanders should make it necessary; and this, at last, we were glad to swallow, being unable to obtaine any better termes.[1] The next day they fell upon the

[1] Sir William Coventry made a bold speech, October 31. He attacked the French unsparingly for their conduct in the naval fights. "Now has the King of France kept treaty with us, as is said? He was to send thirty ships for our sixty; had that conjunction been as it should be, they would have fought. Has heard but of two captains killed in the French fleet, and one died of an unfortunate disease; thinks we had no advantage by their company. One unfortunate gentleman (Martel) did fight, and because that gentleman said, as he had heard, that the French did not do their duty, he is clapped into the Bastile. His own squadron, he said, deserted him; his captains said, 'upon secret orders which they had.'" The Commons resolved without a division, introducing the words suggested by Sir W. Coventry: "That this House, considering the present condition of the nation, will not take into any further debate or consideration any aid or supply or charge upon the subject, until the terms of payment of the 18 months' assessment, &c. granted last session, be expired, unless it shall appear that the obstinacy of the Dutch shall render it necessary, nor before this kingdom be effectually secured from the dangers of Popery and Popish counsels and counsellors, and the other present grievances be redressed."

Speaker,[1] and would not have him sitt any longer in the chayre. Sir Thomas Littleton began the assault, and pressed it from his holding another employment which would require the whole man. Will Harboard seconded it, and accused him of gaming and playing greate summs of the publicke money, as appeared by the marks of the bags. He ran a hazard of being throwne out that day; and to make up the matter, at night a meane whore brought a bastard to his doore and charged it upon him, which drew 500 people about his house to learne the matter.[1] Divers motions have bin made against him since; and it will be hard for him to keep the cushion. When the young whelps were sufficiently warmed with these furious debates, they started matters of grievance, and would not admitt of any other motion till that was redressed. They branched it into 4 particulars: growth of popery, a standing army, the French league, and evill counsaillers. The first they mainely attributed to the Duke's marriage, and carryed a vote to draw up reasons to present to the King to hinder the consummation with the Princess of Modena, or any other Catholick lady. This put the King upon the necessity of adjourning for some days; and hearing in the meane time of theyre resolutions to pursue that boistrous method, he hath prorogued the Parliament till the 7th of January, but the Black Rod could not be soe nimble but that they questioned the Duke Lauderdale for an evill counsailler before he could knock, and were proceeding to some others. Since the prorogation the seale hath bin taken from the Lord Chancellor (on Sunday last) and given to Keeper Finch (late Attorney) who is succeeded by the Sollicitor,[2] and he by Winnington. We are now in expectation that his Majesty will prudently prevent by his goodness what he could not without diminution of his prerogative have assented unto upon theyre boystrous demands. We heare of a declaration against the

[1] Lord Conway writes to Sir George Rawdon, December 28, 1677, of Speaker Seymour: "Mr. Speaker's lady is a most virtuous discreet person, but her husband is worse for women than my Lord Ranelagh." Rawdon Papers, p. 255.

[2] Sir Francis North, afterwards Lord Keeper, and Lord Guildford.

papists, and a resolution to disband the new-raised regiments, which they call a standing army; and then they will have little to object against evill counsaillers, especially if a peace ensue; which if we can be soe happy as to obteine by your endeavours, I noe wise doubt but that the Parliament will give him money to pay his debts and recover the honour of the nation, in keeping fayth with the bankers.

On the 5th of November the Pope was with greate solemnity burnt in severall places in London (a barbarisme which I thought noe nation but the Hollander could have been guilty of); yet, I assure you, some of your brother members were assistant to it, Sir John Pakington and Sir Ant. Cope, but whether it proceeded from wine or zeale I am yet to learne.

Had the Parliament continued, Sir Lionell Jenkins would most certainely have bin throwne out of the House, for they would not be persuaded to deferre the tryall of his election till his returne; and Sir P. Neile coming into the House, returned by the proper officer of Newark, was forced to withdraw, and not suffered to show by what right he sate.

Now I have wearyed you with Parliament news, give me leave to refresh you with somewhat from the Court. The Lords Sunderland and Middlesex are made gentlemen of the bedchamber; the latter by the solicitation of the Lord Buckhurst,[1] for which his uncle hath setled his estate upon him. Tom Windham and Captain Skelton are sworne supernumerary grooms of the bedchamber and permitted to wayte; Mrs Windham is ready to lye down; Mrs Price is to be marryed to Mr Stanhope, the Queen's servant, and Mrs Stuart[2] to Captain Buckly. The new mayds that supply theyre places are Temple, Anstroder, and Nan Howard. Your friend Ralph Montague hath managed his matter soe that he and his Countesse lye in two beds, the reason sayd to be strong jealousy of the old mistress. I must now beg my service may be presented to Sir Lionell and

[1] See note, vol. i. p. 87.

[2] Sister of the beautiful Duchess of Richmond, of whom the King had been desperately enamoured.

my good freind Mr Weekes, and that I may obteine pardon for these tedious impertinencyes. I am

Your Excellencyes
Most obedient and most faythfull servant,
G. Talbot.

I forgot to tell why we were prorogued before meeting on the 20th Oct. It was for 3 reasons: to cutt off the dispute betwixt the 2 houses, to revive the bill of paving the streetes of London, and that custome might not be pleaded against giving money twice the same session.[1]

Our Smirna rich fleete came safe into the river on Wednesday; that night my Lord Duras arrived from Paris.

Indorsed,
Sir Gilb. Talbot.
R Dec. 7.

No. 141.—From James Vernon.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 17 Nov.

Tho' I shall forbear to trouble your Excy but upon a very justifiable occasion, so I looke upon it as my duty to give you an account of what ever passeth that is remarkable within my sphere, which makes me take the liberty to acquaint your Excy that the last weeke the King profferd my Lord Duke[2] to make him Commissioner of Scotland in the place of my Lord Lauderdale; but his Grace modestly refused it, telling his Majesty that he desired to appear in action while the warr continued, and in a time of peace he feared that employment would draw upon him the envy of the Duke.[3] The King commended him for his prudence, told him

[1] See *ante*, p. 51, letter 128.

[2] The Duke of Monmouth. Vernon was in the Duke's service. See previous letters of Vernon, vol. i. pp. 105, 188; vol. ii. p. 22.

[3] The Duke of York.

he was of the same opinion, and therefore if he had not that he should not long want some considerable charge in the kingdome.

I am, my Lord,
Your Excellencyes most obedient and
most faithfull servant,

R. $\frac{24}{4}$ Dec. J. VERNON.

No. 142.—From Robert Yard.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 17 November, 1673.

When I writt the letters I sent your Excellency by the last ordinary it was intended Mr. Smith should have carried them, but the arrivall of Mr. Petit about ten that night altered my Lord's mind. Since wee have received your Excellencyes of the 14th, in which you are pleased to command me to call upon Mr. Floyd, Mr. Terrill, and Mr. Newcomb, to send your Excellency an account of what moneys they have disbursed for your Excellency, which they did all of them by the last ordinary, if they kept their promise to me, for I was with them severally, and in your Excellencyes name desired it.

Last night arrived here Monsieur de Puis[1] brother, who came out with her Royall Highnesse from Paris on Tuesday last and left Her Highnesse the next day on her journey to Calais, where it is supposed she may arrive to-morrow; his Royal Highnesse goes hence on Wednesday morning early for Dover to meet her. Many people had hoped still that some accident or another would have happened which might have hindered the consommation of this marriage, which is carried on so much against the likeing of the whole nation.

I formerly told your Excellency of a proclamation that was comeing out against the Roman Catholicks. It is now preparing by Mr. Attorney to be read next councell day; the contents

[1] Valet of the Duke of York.

of it your Excellency will find in the Gazette. This would indeed give great satisfaction to the people could they believe that the King's command in this particular would be punctually executed, but they have seen so many proclamations and orders which have hardly been remembered some days after they were published, that they will not take much notice of this till they see the effect follow.

A rich Barbados ship of twenty guns, belonging to London, one Terrey captain, hath been lately taken by a Dutch caper, and retaken again by one of the King's frigatts. From Portsmouth they write that they had a report there that the Plimouth frigatt was sunk, haveing been engaged with three Dutch capers, but that they did not give any creditt to it. The great complaint now in the citty is concerning the excessive price of coales, which are now sold by the wodmongery for 3*l.* 6*s.*, and truly the poorer sort of people find the burthen heavy. Sir Robert Howard, &c. continue still in their severall places, and wee now talke no more of those matters.

I am with all humble duty,
May it please your Excellency,
Your most dutifull obedient and faithfull servant,
R. Yard.

R. $\frac{24}{4}$ Dec.

No. 143.—From William Bridgeman.

My Lord, Whitehall, November 17th, '73.

Mr. Floyd having helpt mee to the enclosed copy of your Bill of Extraordinaries, as it was signed and allowed by my Lord Arlington, and remembering your Excy had writt to mee some time agoe about it, I send it you accordingly, and must att the same time acknowledge the favour of yours of $\frac{4}{14}$th instant.

The Parliament being prorogued, wee have no news but what comes from your parts; onely the Dutchesse is expected here the latter end of this week, having left Paris upon Thursday last, and

designing to bee att Calais upon Wednesday next, his Royall Highnesse going then down to meet her att Dover, where the marriage is to bee consummated, and soe brings her up to town the next day.

I doe not heare any thing more of a further change of any of our officers here, though the discourse of it was very hot last weeke.

The Spanish Ambassador here has sent over Fonseca, their Consull, to carry the news (as they pretend and divulge) of a misunderstanding between the King and the Parliament, and that they will give no supply unlesse the King breake his alegiance with France. I doe not question but you have abundance of that kind of stuffe spread abroad in those parts; however I beleeve (att least hope) they will finde themselves mistaken in their measures in January when the Parliament meet next, and they finde they will give his Majesty a supply for the carrying on of the warre, as I am very confident they are more inclined to now they begin to bee disabused concerning the carriage of the Dutch as to any overtures of a peace and his Majesty's great condescensions in order thereunto. God grant all may end to his Majesty's satisfaction and the honour and safety of the nation!

I am, with all respect and truth, my Lord,
Your Excellency's most faithfull and
most humble servant,
WILLIAM BRIDGEMAN.

B. $\frac{24}{4}$ Dec.

No. 144.—FROM COLONEL ROGER WHITLEY.[1]

My Lord, London, Nov. $\frac{17}{27}$, '73.

Nothing could have bin more welcome then the honor you did me by yours of the 10th, which brought the happy account of your health amidst all the troubles of that contrey and fatigues of your

[1] M.P. for Flint; Marvell describes him (1677) as "knight harbinger, farmer of the Post Office, by which he has got a vast estate."

great imployments, except you had come yourselfe, crowned with olive, peace and your good company being mightily longd for here, and the truth is we have soe little hopes of the first (I meane we that are far from the cabinet) considering the great successes and allyances of our adversaryes, that if there be such a blessing in store for us we must (next to the goodnesse of God) ascribe it to the admirable dexterity and wise conduct of your Lordship.

Your Lordship hath bin long since informed of the short and uncomfortable meetings of the Parlement, nor did we any thing (whilest we were together) that you would have bin pleased with the account of; the particulars you have certeinly received from better hands. I finde some, that voted with the highest, now of opinion that they were too precipitate, and encline to more moderation, yet loath to give money withoute redresse of greivances. The maine points hinted (soe far as I can collect from whispers) are Religion, Army, French-Allyance, and Councellors. His Majesty is doing something (in the two first) to theire content, and we must endeavor to qualify and sweeten the two latter: a moderate middle way to keep things well betwixt King and People is the best I can hope for, and no man shall be more industrious (in my poore capacity and station) to promote it: We onely want the influence of your Lordship's direction and countenance, which (I assure you) is of very great esteeme amongst those with whom I converse. Not onely in the Court and Citty, but Westminster also, you are often and most respectfully remembered, your health and happinesse wisht, and retorne long'd for, and that you may be the happy instrument of restablishing not onely the peace but all the great concernes of this Kingdome, wherein though millions may have more interest, yet none would more rejoyce then,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and obedient Servant,

Ro: Whitley.

℞ $\frac{24}{4}$ Dec.

Coll. Whitley.

No. 145.—From Sir Robert Wiseman.[1]

Sir, London, November 17th, 1673.

Yesterday I received yours of the $\frac{14}{24}$ of last moneth, and I acknowledge a greate obligation you have layde upon mee by itt. I was not wanting in deesires and intentions to have saluted you in this manner beefore now, and I have a letter of a long date lying by mee to that purpose which I intended for you, but the feare of beeing too troublesome supprest itt from you. I heartily joyne with you in the good wishes you make for happy things this Parlia ment in order to a peace, and I am nott in despaire of them in our next meeting, which as is yett thought will bee the 7th of Jany, for of our sudden prorogation I doubt not butt you have beefore this heard; as likewise of the change of a Lord Chauncelor to a Lord Keeper, who is Sir Heneage Finch, in whose place att Oxford for the University will bee undoubtedly chosen (as is said) your College plenipotentiary.[2]

This day is printed the States' letter to the King, with the King's answere annexed, which satisfyes mee too much thatt you will hardly come att a Peace with them worthy to succeede the warre of two greate Princes against them; and wee conclude heere that Fraunce is very hard beesett, and wee feare (many of us) that hee will take noe greate care to stand for any good termes for us in the condition hee is in, but this assure youreselfe wee are all Old Englishmen and will maintaine the warre singly alone than submitt dishonourable to them. I hope and earnestly pray that wee may come together with lesse prejudice att Westminster than wee did last time; the King outt of his wisdome is preeparing meanes towardes itt, papists being forbid the Court, and a proclamation for the convicting of them speedily intended. Butt I may whisper you a doubtfullnesse of the Parliament beeing satis-

[1] An Advocate of Doctors' Commons.

[2] Thomas Thynne, esq. of Christ Church, was the successor of Sir Heneage Finch as M.P. for the University of Oxford.

fyed withoutt the removall of some persons from businesse neere the King, and where it will fall particularly I cannott soe well tell you, butt the spirits of men are almost invincibly alarm'd att and sett against the councells thatt have hitherto taken place. Itt will prove and bee commended an excellent wisedome that can find out expedients to qualify and compose matters in this conjuncture; fo my part I find a misse of you, and I wish you were heere with all my heart. My good freind, I find itt a greate evill under the sunne that the King's conscientious good friendes are (as they have allwayes beene) little regarded, both in themselves and in the principles they owne. It is an ill omen of the fall of a State where such as serve the publicke out of a goode conscience have noe other reward for soe doing but the satisfaction of their good conscience. This is nott my saying, but the saying of an old neglected supposed Cavalier 1500 years agoe. Sir, I did not thinke to trouble you with this complaint when I beegan, itt fell in I know not how, butt I assure you itt stickes in a great many men's stomacks, and undoubtedly if such men and their principles were butt att this day regarded, all would speedily doe well, and on my conscience itt is come to a crisis that if they bee nott willingly complyed with all by such as may have oppertunity to doe itt, they will repent and wish they had.

Sir, I wish you all health and happinesse, and great and good successe in your affaire, and may you returne beeloved by all as by,

Sir,

Your reall faithfull humble Servant,

R. W[iseman].

R $\frac{24}{4}$ Dec.

Sir R. Wiseman.

No. 146.—From Major Thomas Fairfax.

My Lord, London, Nov^{r} ^{7th}, old style, 1673.

I received two from your Ex^{cy} of $\frac{4}{14}$ and the $\frac{8}{18}$ inst. I hope by this your Lordship finds I have not neglected to give your Lord-

ship an account of my proceedings, and that by every opportunitie since I left Cologne. And now, my Lord, I wish I could send you that newes you your selfe desires. But it's not to bee imagin'd what humors there are amongst us. It may bee *the House of Commons when*[1] they *sit againe* will *consider the* true *interest of* the *kingdome.* I am told the *cabal* of them are pretty well broaken. I shall not faile to doe all that lies in mee to observe your Ex^cyes instructions in the meane time. To-morrow the Duke goes to Dover to meet the Dutchess who will bee att Calais on Wednesday next. It's thought *the Lord Chancellor*[2] will bee *in favour* againe; but I suppose your Ex^cy knowes all those matters better than I can tell you; what the matter is I know not, but most seem to bee glad when they heare any ill newes of 433. God Allmighty turne all things for the best! I shall not faile by every opportunitie (as I have done hitherto) to give your Ex^cy an account of what I know, for I am with great reallitie, My Lord,

Your Lordship's most faithfull freind and humble servant,

T. F[AIRFAX].

B. 24.

No. 147.—From Robert Yard.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 21st November, 1673.

Wee have received your Ex^cys of the $\frac{11}{21}$st instant with severall enclosed. That to M^r Floyd I delivered my selfe, and gave him an account that I would putt another bill of your Ex^cys extraordinaries into his hands so soone as I could gett it signed from M^r Bridgman, though it seems there is now no occasion for it, the first, which was mislaid, being now found againe. Hee further told mee that the warrants for your Ex^cys arrears in the councell were now in Sir Robert Howard's hands, with whom he has lately

[1] The words in italics are in cipher in the original.

[2] Earl of Shaftesbury. Great efforts were made by the King to bring him back, but without success.

had some difference, and therefore thought it necessary that I should goe and sollicite it, which accordingly I will doe. I writt your Ex^cy two or three posts since that Sir Robert Southwell had 300*l.* in his hands for your Ex^cy out of the prizes, and expects your Ex^cys directions for the disposall of it.

This day her Royall Highnesse is expected at Dover, where the Duke has been ever since Wednesday last, haveing parted from hence that morneing early. It is possible they may lye togeather this night at Canterbury, where the Bishop of Oxford[1] is to marry them. It has been reported here that his Royall Highnesse will then receive the holy sacrament from the hands of the said bishop; but it is feared it is onely a report.

Yesterday the Smirna fleet, being about twenty saile, arrived in the Downes, haveing for convoy five men-of-warr, commanded by Sir John Narbrough. It seems one of this fleet, *vidt.* the Golden Fleece of London, a very rich ship, haveing about Land's End lost the company of the rest, was mett and attacqued by a Dutch caper, against whom the marchant-man defended himselfe very well till such time as one of the King's frigatts came in and ended the battle, by takeing the Dutch caper. An other Dutch caper of 12 guns is taken oft of Key, and of late our frigatts have mett with severall of them; however the rest are not all discouraged at it, but cruise all along our coasts in such numbers that it is hardly credible. The greatest complaints of this kind come from the northwards, because the colliers are very much disturbed, and coales brought to be sold here for 31. 12 sh., which vexes people the more, because they say it might in great measure be prevented could they have constant convoys, and truly it is to be wondred that it goes so well with the colliers; for wee often hear of fleets of 150 and 200 saile, which have onely a vessell of 10 or 12 guns for their convoy; and sometimes none at all.

My Lord of Norwich[2] and the rest of the Roman Catholick

[1] Dr. Nathaniel Crewe, afterwards Bishop of Durham.

[2] Henry Howard, created Earl of Norwich 1673. He succeeded his brother as 6th Duke of Norfolk 1677.

nobility have, it is said, desired leave of the King to goe and live beyond sea, for that if they goe downe and live in the country, as they must doe since they are forbid the court, and there keep houses according to their quality, the country will flock to them, and perhaps occasion jealousies, which the better to prevent they desire to goe abroad. Sir William Lockart's Regiment is now gone for France, though many of them are ran away, and those that are gone haveing mutinied before they could be gott on bord; on which occasion an ensign of one of the companys being somewhat brisk and drawing his sword to frighten them into better order, the poor gentleman was immediately knocked on the head by them and left dead on the place.

The marchants are full of apprehensions of a warr with Spaine; for they write from Flanders that the Count de Monterey has power to break with us, when he thinks fitt.

My Lord Arlington has been indisposed these 3 or four days.

I am, with all dutifull respect, My Lord, your Excellency's most faithfull and most obedient servant,

R. YARD.

By Dec. 4.

No. 148.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 24 November, 1673.

Wee have your Excellency's of the 24. instant with the enclosed. On Satturday last Major Fairfax put into my hands a note of severall things which your Excellency wants; I will take care they shall be bought, and sent your Excellency by the first conveyance. I was this morneing to wait upon Sir Robert Howard concerneing your Excellencyes arrears in the Councell Chamber, and he has promised they shall be paid out of hand.

On Friday last, in the afternoone, her Royall Highnesse arrived at Dover from Calais, and about five in the evening the Bishop of

Oxford declared the marriage in the same forme as was practised by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the marriage of his Majesty. On Wednesday their Royall Highnesses will be here in towne, and the King entertains them at dinner; they come up by water, and the King will meet them at Gravesend. In the mean time people cannot forbear makeing reflections; but the soberer sort wish that much more happinesse and comfort may attend them than the present disposition of the nation will lett us hope for. It is hardly credible how strangely jealous people are of popery, and doubtless without any reason, but yet it will be no easy thing to convince them of their mistake. Here is some days since came abroad a pamphlett containeing the votes and addresses of the House of Commons dureing their two last sessions, and is publickly sold up and downe towne, the author whereof concludes his discourse that that morneing the Parliament was prorogued it was proposed in the House that the alliance with France was a grievance; that the King's evill councell was a grievance; and that the Duke of Lauderdaill was a grievance; but that the Black Rod knocking at the doore, the House broke up and had not time to come to any resolve. I doe not write your Excellency the factious discourses of disaffected persons; but those that truly love both King and Country pray that those black clouds which seem gathering over our heads may pass by and not fall downe in storms. The Parliament in Scotland pretends to have many grievances, and till they are regulated will not take into their consideration the King's letters. They have complaints against their Commissioner, the Duke of Lauderdaill, and have appointed six of their body to come hither and bear them to the King, and some say they are already on their way.

The East India Company have sold all the prize goods for 45,000*l.* more than was contracted for with Thomson and the rest of his company, and have already paid in greatest part of the money. The seamen are most paid off for this summer service, and wee hear at present very few complaints of this kind. The businesse of

Captain Waters, of which Mr. Ball gave your Ex^cy an account by the last ordinary, has given great satisfaction, for truely the soldiers have of late committed severall insolencies in severall parts of this kingdome, and given the greater cause of complaint because they seem countenanced by their superior officers. I sent your Excellency's sable coat by Mr. Smith, and doubt not but it is come to your Excellencyes hands in good condition. My lady was pleased to order me to take off the velvet, as unfitt in all respects for your Excellency to weare, and was pleased to bestow it on me. Mr. Overbury came to towne on Satturday last.

I am, with all humble duty and submission, my Lord,
Your Excellencyes most faithfull and
most obedient servant,
R. Yard.

My Lord Arlington continues very much indisposed.
Dec. 4.

No. 149.—From William Bridgeman.

My Lord, Whitehall, Nov. 24, '73.

The last post my Lord Arlington commanded mee to tell your Ex^cy that by reason of a fitt of the gout upon him he was not able to write and acknowledge yours of the $\frac{11}{21}$th. His indisposition still continuing upon him he does not finde himselfe yet in a condition better for it, and therefore commands mee now again to acknowledge yours of the $\frac{14}{24}$, which have not yet been read before the King att the Committee of Foreigne Affairs.

Fonseca[1] (who I presume you may have heard *was sent into Flanders by the Ambassador of Spaine heere*,) *is returned; the Ambassador has sent him to come and give my Lord Arlington an account of his journey*, which my *Lord bids me acquaint you with as* an

[1] The words in italics are in cipher in the original.

extraordinary *complement of the Ambassador's*. My Lord's indisposition not having permitted him yet to speake with him, he can yet say no more upon that subject.

Wee are made to beleeve, att least would faine persuade ourselves, that *the Parliament*, att *their next meeting*, will *comply with the King's desires in point of a supply;* how farre *they will* God knowes, onely I am sure that severall *of the . . . . and of Commons* seeme to bee very well *satisfyed with the King's answer to the late letter from Holland*, and declare *to be soe of the necessity of supplying his Majesty*, but have strange *jealousyes of other matters*. I have been told, and from a good hand, that upon some discourse with a great Minister *of the King of France* concerning this matter, that he should say that if *the Parliament did not supply his Majesty his Master would* thinke *of doing it.*

Upon Friday last, in the evening, the Dutchesse landed att Dover, where the Bishop of Oxford declared the marriage between his Royall Highnesse and her in the same forme as was done att the King's marriage. Their Royall Highnesses staid there till this morning and intend to bee in town upon Wednesday next.

I have the favour of one from you of the $\frac{14}{24}$ to acknowledge, and am, with much respect and truth,

My Lord, your Excellencies most faithfull and most humble servant,

Wm. Bridgeman.

Dec. 4.

No. 150.—From John Richards.

My Lord, Whitehall, Novr 24th, '73.

Yesterday arrived your Excies of the $\frac{14}{24}$, which his Lordshipp excuses himselfe from acknowledging by this Ordinary, being much indisposed with a fitt of the goute, that hath held him these six or

seven daies somewhat severely, but (God bee thanked) begins now to abate.

Her Royall Highnesse, with the Duchesse her mother, arrived at Dover on Friday last, according to his Royall Highnesses expectation, who arrived there the day before. They this day set out thence, and lodge this night at Canterbury and to-morrow night at Rochester, soe that on Wednesday they will be here. The King intends to goe downe by water three or foure miles to meete them.

His Majesties late Order forbidding Roman Catholics the Court, and a subsequent Proclamation for the putting the laws in execution against them, hath given great satisfaction to the people, and 'tis hoped will allay the impetuous heates that lately appeared in the Parliament and gave that shamefull advantage to his Majesties enemies abroad. The Parliament in Scotland hath exprest great dissatisfaction at their Commissioner, the Duke of Lauderdaile, and upon his pressing them to vote an answer to his Majesties letter they said they had grievances likewise to represent to his Majesty (as monopolies of salt, tobacco, &c.) and would doe both together. Duke Hamilton appeares eminently in this party, and is not to bee taken off.

I am, with all devotion and truth,

My Lord, your Ex^cies most humble servant,

JO. RICHARDS.

℟ Dec. 4.

No. 151.—From Robert Yard.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 28 November, 1673.

Wee have not received any from your Ex^cy since what I acknowledged in my last. I there told your Ex^cy that Major Fairfax had left a note with us two or three days before of severall things to be bought for your Ex^cy. This evening I have sent downe to M^r Page

a runlet of usquabach, and a piece of frieze from my Lady Katherine; 4 pair of shoes with one pair of galachoes, with a small piece of flannell, the best that could be gott, and, as I am told by those that pretend to have skill, very good, and containes about 25 or 27 yards. Mr Page has promised me to take care of the things and recommend them to his correspondent on the other side of the water, to be sent forward according to your Excys directions. The scarlett ribbon, with the silke and worsted stockens, shall be sent by the first expresse, which I am told may goe hence some time the next week. I have taken 10*l.* of Mr Floyd to pay for these things, and by the next ordinary I will send your Excy a note how it has been laid.

Her Royall Highnesse arrived here on Wednesday last about noone, all the principall of the nobility haveing attended the King to goe and meet her. She landed at the Privy Stairs without any sollemnity, and so went directly up to the Queen, who received her in her withdrawing roome, and, after a quarter of an hour's stay there, went to St James, the King leading the young Dutchesse, and the Duke her mother. As to her person, I hardly dare venture to make a description ; yet some indifferent things I may presume to tell your Excy. She is tall and slender, of a pale complexion and browne haire, which all putt togeather people judge variously off. Some cry her up for a very fine weoman, and generally all say she will be a fine weoman when she is somewhat more spread ; and in the mean time praise her witt. Yesterday she dined in publick at St James, her mother setting at the table with her, which our nobility stomacking very highly, the Dutchesse has declared that she will not dine in publick any more, while her mother continues here ; who when she was with the Queen had likewise a seat given her, which severall ladyes took so ill that, as I am told, they went out of the withdrawing roome.

In Scotland the Parliament begins to coole againe, and wee heare nothing farther of commissioners comeing hither, so that it is hoped all will goe well there. In Towne they have a great deale of

news that I cannot heare anything of heare at Court: that the Parliament will be prorogued till October next; that their league with France is renewed, with the inclusion of Sweden; and that the Duke of Yorke will goe to sea this spring, if the warr continues, which begetts new dissatisfactions amongst the people to that degree that they forgett all decency and respect in the discourses. It is very much taken notice of that the Lord Mayor has not been to compliment their Royall Highnesses upon their marriage; but his Lordshipp sides, it seems, with the people, who still on all occasions expresse their aversion to this match. Should I write your Ex^cy^ all the discourses wee have here of the power of the several factions, of the turneing out of one and the comeing in of another, I should fill severall sheets, and perhaps after all tell your Ex^cy^ many things that are not soe. That the Earle of Essex is to be recalled home;[1] that the Earle of Arlington shall goe ambassador to Spaine; and that the Earle of Ossory shall be Secretary of State,[2] are things very much talkt off. People complaine likewise that the order against the Roman Catholics not comeing to Court is not executed; that the Dutchesse of Yorke has no one but Roman Catholics in her family; and, finally, that the French party getts ground every day. But I dare not committ to paper all I hear, and that from sober persons: and, therefore, most humbly begging your Ex^cys^ pardon,

I am, with all duty and submission,
My Lord,
Your Excellency's most faithfull and most humble servant,
R. YARD.

Dec. 7.

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[1] From Ireland, where he was Lord Lieutenant; but the rumour was not true.

[2] This rumour was not true either. The Earl of Arlington and Earl of Ossory had married two sisters.

No. 152.—From John Richards.

My Lord, Whitehall, Nov. 28th, '73.

Since my last, my Lord Arlington hath received nothing from your Excie, soe his Lordshipp commands mee to repeate oncly his acknowledgments of your Excies of the $\frac{14}{24}$, and with all to make this excuse for his not answearing formally, as hee allwayes endeavoured, that hee is (as hee has beene now neere a fortnight) labouring under a fitt of the goute, which now holds him soe to his chamber as not to suffer him to put his foot to the ground. On Wednesday noone the Duchesse of Modena (now Her Royall Highnesse) arrived here by water from Gravesend; the King met her some few miles downe the river and led her by the hand to the withdrawing roome, where the Queene saluted her at the doore. Many small matters are now adjusting upon the visitts of ladies, wherein ours seeme much unsatisfied as yet, but I hope your Excie may by the next receive a satisfactory account of it.

I presume to trouble your Excie with the inclosed for Mr. Churchill, containing leave for him to come for some time for England, which with the other from my Lord Lieutenant of Ireland being all I can at this time take upon mee to trouble your Excie withall, I humbly beg your pardon, and remaine, with all devotion,

My Lord,

Your Excies most obedient servant,

Jo. Richards.

℔ Dec. 7.

No. 153.—From Robert Yard.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 8 December, 1673.

I have your Excys of the 28 past old stile, and perceive by it that your Excy has not as yet received the account you expected

from Mr. Floyd, which I very much wonder at, for that he assures me that he has sent it severall posts since. I have been severall times this week with Mr. Burgesse to gett of him an account of what moneys have been paid, &c., and he promises I shall have it, but still puts me off from day to day by reason of other businesse which hinders him. With the next ordinary Mr. Barré, I suppose, will goe expresse; by him I will send the ribbon and stockens your Ex^cy^ is pleased to write for. For news I know at present very little to write you, things being every where in the greatest quiettnesse imaginable, and the people, haveing almost wearied themselves with their impertinent discourses, begin to be more prudent and to forbear them.

All the forreigne ministers have been to compliment the Duke and Dutchesse of Yorke upon their marriage, except the Spanish Ambassador, which he declares is not for want of respect to their Royall Highnesses, but that he deferred it in expectation of receiveing letters from the Court of Spaine to be at the same time presented to their Royall Highnesses; but the true reason is that to prevent all difference between him and the French Ambassador, who pretended to have audience first, he deferred his and gave all the other lesser ministers leisure to come between; yesterday in the evening he made at last his publick compliments to their Royall Highnesses.

Saturday last, in the evening, Mr. Montague[1] was discharged out of the Tower through the earnest sollicitations of his friends, but at the same time was confined to his house upon honor till the King's farther pleasure be knowne, who will consider of a fitt satisfaction to be made by him to the Duke of Buckingham; for it appears that he was the agressor. I will presume to give your Excellency the true relation of that rencounter, because I fear I may have been guilty of some mistakes concerneing it. Mr. Montague was standing in the circle in the withdrawing roome, the King present, when the Duke comes in hastily to goe to the King and pulls

[1] Ralph Montagu, who had lately married the Countess of Northumberland.

Mr. Montague by the shoulder to make way, who, looking back, somewhat angerley asked who is there, the Duke replyed, It is I, and will come by; You shall not, said Mr. Montague, upon which some fierce words more of "I will" and "you shall not" passed between them, when Mr. Montague went and bid the Duke follow him. Beeing both come out of the Queene's roomes, Mr. Montague challenged the Duke to goe imediately and fight, and so make onely a rencounter of it, and not a sett duell; the Duke would not, but told him he should hear of him at such a place the next morning, upon which they parted. Mr. Montague was no sooner gott home but the King, who had been informed by Mr. Felton and Mr. Griffin of what had passed between them, sent to secure him, the Duke keeping out of the way till the Tuesday following, when he went to the King; and the next day the whole businesse was heard at the Councell.

The report wee had of the Duke of Monmouth's being to be Master of the Horse proves without ground. In Scotland it seems the Duke of Lauderdaill has gott the better of his enemies, and the Parliament begin to proceed more moderately.

I am most humbly, my Lord,
Your Excellency's most faithfull
and most obedient Servant,
R. Yard.

R $\frac{18}{28}$.

No. 154.—Extract of a Letter signed M.P., but indorsed Roger Jones to Lord Conway, dated 11 Dec. 1673.[1]

* * * * *

For that matter betweene the Duke of Buckingham and Mr. Mounticue, the reporte here was that the latter was sent to the

[1] This was probably inclosed to Williamson by Lord Conway or by one of his ordinary correspondents. Edward, third Lord Conway, was created Earl of Conway in

Tower, which was pleasing to me, for 3 weekes or a fortnight before it was reported his Grace had parted with his Master of the Horse, and was retireing to Venice, or some other place, from the affaires at home. One thing in this matter they report as ill of his Grace, that notwithstanding he knew Mr. Mounticue was under confinement he went the next day to the place appointed for feighting; he perhapps had reason soe to doe, but if not I take it in the same mould they put the rest of his actions, being all falsetyes; his enemyes heere will neither speake good of him nor admitt him to be in the King's favor. The same inclynation and worse they have of my Lord Latherdale, both whose integrityes to his Majestie and their country will, I hope, justiefie them and never suffer them to be injured by the mallice of men who rather designe their ruin then the good of either King or people. My Lord Treasurer, on whose eye I thought an autum[1] could not lye, they sticke not to lessen and seeme to countinance. Sir Tho. or Ch. Littleton,[2] who is given out heere to say to his Lordship upon his Lordship's saying

1679, and was made Secretary of State in 1680. He succeeded the Earl of Sunderland, and was again replaced by Sunderland in 1682. Burnet says of Lord Conway, that "he was so very ignorant of foreign affairs that, his province being the North, when one of the foreign ministers talked to him of the circles of Germany it enraged him; he could not imagine what circles had to do with affairs of state." (Own Time, i. 531.) No Roger Jones is to be found in the list of the Parliament when first elected printed in the Parliamentary History, vol. iv. But if it were Roger James, there is an M.P. for Guildford of that name, whose colleague was Serjeant Thurland, made a Baron of the Exchequer in January 1673, and Thurland might be "the man here," referred to in the letter as favouring the Ormond, Arlington, and Shaftesbury section of the cabinet.

[1] The word *autum*, which must mean *autumn*, is very clearly written in the letter. I do not know this phrase anywhere else: it perhaps means that the Lord Treasurer's sharpness was not likely to wither.

[2] Sir Thomas Littleton was a great Parliament-man. "He had generally," says Burnet, "the character of the ablest Parliamentary men in his time. He was a man of strong head and sound judgment." (Own Time, i. 231-2.) He was in opposition to the Court. Sir Charles Littleton is described by Evelyn as "an honest gentleman and soldier," brother of Sir Henry Littleton, of Worcestershire. (Diary, March 24, 1688.)

a buisines he propounded was a cheate, that Sir Littleton should say it was noe more a cheat then his Lordship was a cheat.

For Mr. Speaker (my patrone when I come to the Howse of Commons) they say he cannot hold long, haveing, as they say, spooken and otherwise injured the late Lord Chancellor, whose interest they report is as good as ever, and the side whereof he is they report to be much stronger then the other and more prevallent. And now, my Lord, as it is discoursed heere, these are the two partyes at Court, the D:[uke] O:[rmond], Lord Arlington, Lord Shaftesbury, and Secretary Coventry; the D:[uke] B:[uckingham], Lord Treasurer, Mr. Speaker, and the Lord Latherdale, if he were there. It may be concluded then that the first is the strongest, the two secretaryes being of them, whose buisines requires more of the King's care then the others can have; besides you know the man heere is more inclyned to that than the other, tho' his interest will guide his feete in both and inclyne him to walke the same way. It's said the Lord Keeper there resolves to manage himselfe, which is that since most of his buisines relates to the law he will observe that and not meddle at all in the politique part of the Court intreigues, noe more will this, but justly what relates to the Goverment and the preservation of himselfe therein, your Lordship knowes as things are mannaged it's too sweete a bitt to be lost.

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No. 155.—From John Richards.

My Lord, Whitehall, Dec. 12, '73.

Mr. Bridgman being this night charged with the sending your Ex^cie^ a duplicate of his Lordship's last and a copy of a late memoriall from the Spanish Ambassador, I have nothing to adde from his Lordshipp, nor concerning his state of health, more then that I hope by the degrees of his recovery to bee able by the next post to

compleate my list of the letters received here and sent hence since your Ex^cies^ departure, for the not doing whereof at present nor sooner I beg your Ex^cies^ most humble pardon.

Inclosed your Ex^cie^ will receive a Proclamation for the sumoning the Parliament to a full and timely meeting, by which your Ex^cie^ sees the confidence his Majesty has of their better sentiments as to the present conjuncture upon the recollection they have had. God Almighty grant it may bee for the King's honour and the auncient glory of this nation!

Your Ex^cie^ will ever excuse mee when I have no other news but what I am assured you receive from other hands, that I trouble you not with my vaine repetitions, soe I onely take leave to impart to your Ex^cie^ my good fortune in coming in a Clerk of the Privy Seale in possession by the death of Mr. Baron, which I onely value in hopes of being in a capacity of receiving your Ex^cies^ commands there, as I shall with all readiness and obedience in all occasions, being, with all respect,

My Lord, your Ex^cies^ most humble servant,

Jo. Richards.

℞ $\frac{1\,8}{2\,8}$.

No. 156.—From Colonel Roger Whitley, M.P.

My Lord, London, Dec. $\frac{12}{22}$, '73.

If I were not obliged (in good manners) to acknowledge the honor of yours of the 5^th^, I should not be guilty of this impertinence, having nothing but poore simple service to present, and to tell you of a proclamation (this day come forth) to require all members to give theire attendance in Parlement the 7^th^ of Jan^y^. The Scots Parlement is ajourned till the 28^th^ of that month. His Grace [1] is gone to his house at Lydington. My Lord Hamelton and some other Lords are posting hither. I pray God send us a better agreement. Severall of our members are in toune and severall caballs carryed

[1] The Duke of Lauderdale.

on; but if I am able to guesse (soe long before hand) that moderate party will be most prevalent; yt is called the moderate party that would supply the King's occasions, but would be secured in religion and freed from other aprehensions; I am confident there is a great deale of good meaning, if we could but hit on the right meanes of bringing it about. I heartily wish you here (if your greater occasions would permit) to help us in this great conjuncture.

I humbly kisse your Lordshipp's hands, and remayne,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

Ro. Whitley.

Indorsed,

Coll. Whitley.

R $\frac{18}{28}$.

No. 157.—From Robert Yard.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 12 December, 1673.

For these 8 or 10 days past I have constantly waited every morneing at the Exchequer, as well to solicite the payment of your Ex$^{cy's}$ arrears at the councell, as to gett an account of M^{r} Burgesse as your Ex^{cy} desires. For the first, Sir Robert Howard promises he will take care that it be speedily paid, and the latter M^{r} Burgesse says I shall not faile to have on Monday next.

This day came abroad a proclamation in which the King declares his resolution that the Parliament shall meet the next month according to their late prorogation, and requires all the members to come up in order to the haveing a full House. In the mean time the members that are in towne talke higher then ever, and are resolved, unlesse they can have all their grievances redressed to their satisfaction, not to comply with any thing desired of them.

Your Ex^{cy} will doubtlesse have taken notice that in the Gazette of the 8th or 5th instant there was mention made by way of advice

from Brussells that they had letters there from the Hague of the 1st instant which told them that the States, upon receipt of the King's answer to their letter by the trompetter, had voted that the King was very sharp and obstinate, &ca; and that what I did was not without order, and without any designe farther then to show the insolence of the Dutch according as our advices gave it us from abroad, without adding or diminishing, I humbly assure your Excy; yet it seems wee have a great many people here amongst us that will by no means be brought to have the opinion of our enemies they deserve, and seem to believe that this story was coined here at Whitehall to injure these good people. The Parliament storme at no rate, and pretend to be highly offended, and that the businesse shall be fully examined at their next sessions, they thinking themselves very much concerned because it was said in that Gazette that the Dutch would draw up propositions for peace, and send them to the principall members of the Parliament, and endeavour what they could doe that way. I could name some that in all companies take an extraordinary liberty to talke of the great matters they will doe for the vindicateing the nation, &ca, and consequently putt people in expectation of they know not what, amongst whom it is an ordinary discourse that they apprehend troubles, and that in this very manner the last distractions begun, &ca, whilst all sober good people wish for a happy understanding in all things between the King and his Parliament.

Our navall preparations are carrying on against spring, but how they will be carried on without money is a great question, and money is not to be expected from the Parliament if the Dutch propose reasonable conditions, which all the members are of opinion they will yet doe, provided it be with the exclusion of France, which they think reasonable, and say his Majesty is not obliged to maintaine a treaty which he finds proves destructive to the nation and contrary to the hearts of his people; and that this alliance with France, besides the vast expence and losse the kingdome has already sustained, will inevitably cast us into a warr with Spaine,

to the utter ruine of the kingdome. There be many of the Parliament men who take upon them to blame the proceedings at Cologne; and Mr Stubs, who is very conversant among them, had the confidence to say in a great company that your Excy would returne with the envy of the Parliament, though I thinke he has more tongue than witt. Thursday night there happened a fire in or near Mincing Lane in London, and one house was burnt downe, the brick walls keeping the fire from goeing farther. My Lord Keeper hitherto acts with great applause in the Chancery, and is much praised for his quick dispatching of businesse. The Parliament in Scotland is adjourned till the latter end of the next month. Wee have not any letters since what I acknowledged in my last.

I am most humbly,
My Lord,
Your Excellency's
most faithfull and most obedient servant,
R. Yard.

R $\frac{18}{28}$.

No. 158.—From Robert Yard.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 17 December, 1673.

I am extreamely troubled that I must misse the opportunity of this expresse to send your Excy the ribond and stockens your Excy writt for, and should be more could I attribute it to any fault of mine owne, and therefore with the greatest confidence I beg your Excys pardon; for it seems that everything is carried on with so much secrecy in this office, that wee may not know of the dispatch of an expresse till we have it from the doorkeeper, or that wee see them ready to depart. It is past twelfe at night, and though both Mr Ball and myselfe have been attending here from morneing to night yet have I not been able to heare of this dispatch till within this 6 minutes, when the doore keeper sent to my lodgeing to give

me notice of it, and yet this very morneing I asked Mr Bridgman when any expresse would goe, and his answer was he could not tell; thus they take paines to run us into errors, and would endeavour to diminish our creditts with your Excy as well as they doe here at home. I againe beg your Excys pardon for presuming to give you the trouble of these lines; the truth is I would be very sorry to be suspected of any neglect towards your Excy, and therefore take the liberty to vindicate my selfe in this particular.

By the last ordinary I gave your Excy a large account of severall things, that is as farr as was fitting for me to doe, in regard of the hands our letters passe before they come to your Excys. I then sent you an account I had from Mr Burgesse concerneing moneys paid your Excy relateing to this or the former embassy into Holland. At present I have not any news to adde, for I see Mr Ball has writt your Excy what wee this day received from Scotland, and some other passages which I doe not repeat, not to spare my selfe that labour, but your Excy the trouble of reading it.

Had I had but an hour's time I could have sent your Excy your things by this occasion, but now must beseech you to expect them by the next.

The Almighty God preserve your Excy and encrease to your Excy all honor, health, and happinesse, as prays most ardently,

My Lord, your Excies

Most faithfull and obedient servant,

R. Yard.

By Jan. 9.

No. 159.—From Henry Ball.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, Dec. 17th, 12 at night. '73.

Hearing by chance just now of the departure of these gentlemen I durst not forbeare presenting my humble duty to your Excellency, though the shortness of the warning has given me no time

to prepare my usuall trouble, for which I most humbly begg your Ex^cyes pardon, and hope you will please to believe I want neither respect nor will to serve you, nor never shall while I live.

This day from Scotland wee heare of the 11^th instant, that the weeke before, upon the dismission of S^r Andrew Ramsey, late Provost of Edinburg, James Currie, their eldest Bayliff, was that day, by the unanimous vote of the people, elected Lord Provost in his roome; that upon Satturday before the acts of the late Parliament were proclaimed, viz^t. one against the pre-emption of salt, discharging the same for the future, another for takeing off the prohibition of brandye and the guift given to my Lord Elphinston to that effect, another for freeing the imposition on tobacco besides his Majestyes ordinary custome of excise, which was given to Sir John Nicholson, and another rectifying the former Act about apparelle, allowing now all persons to weare plaine silkes and plaine ribbands, beaten silver or gold buttons, or any goldsmith's worke; that on the Wednesday before the Duke of Hamilton, Earl of Twaddail, Generall Robert Drummond and Sir John Harper began their journey from thence towards London, accompanyed from my Lord Duke's lodging by a traine of 10 coaches and above 400 horse, and that the discourse of their journey there was, that the Duke came to vindicate himselfe to his Majesty, that all the desires and endeavours used by him and other Members in the Lords House for reddress of the people's grievances were not out of any ill will or evill designe against his Majesty, but zeale for his service, which they thought they could not performe without satisfying the people as to the grievances they so much cryed out against, which being now reddressed there was no doubt but the whole kingdom as one man would be ready to serve his Majesty with their lives and fortunes on all occasions. This faire account we have from them, but the people here will have itt that these Lords really come up to make their complaints of the Lord Commissioner, who did not approve att all of their resolutions. How many friends his Grace has att home I know not, but here are but few, every one speakeing

most hardly of him. The towne begins now to be in hopes of peace on the account, I suppose, only of the Spanish Memoriall and offerrs made therein, which they would have accepted by all meanes, and especially the Parliament men, who dayly discourse of no longer continuance of the warr. This day was a complaint made to his Majesty of the hard usage used by the Commissioners of the Navy (or rather Navy officers) to the soldiers now going from hence for France, whom they cause to be shipt but with such ill provision and without convoy, so that wayting so long at sea they fall into calentures and leape into the sea in that frenzy, by which severall of them have been lost. There lyes in the Downes att present 17 men of warr and 120 sayle of good marchant men bound for the Straights and other parts, though the report is the convoye has further designe after they have conveyed them to the Rocke of Lisbone. The Spanish marchants say they know not yett what to thinke of a warr between us and Spaine yett, the King bidding them on Monday be cautious how they trusted those people, for he had no very good correspondency with them.

My Lady of Northumberland has miscarryed and is very ill this weeke, which is increased by her husband's being not yett free from his restraint. The King has increased Sir William Godolphin's allowance, makeing it now after the rate of Extraordinarye Embassyes to that Court. My Lord Arlington has not yett gott his feet, but comes now to councell, both yesterday and to-day. The Papists nobility have now resolved upon quitting the kingdome, finding there is no stopp likely to be putt to the proceedings against them, all of them being indicted with a great deale of severity. This session now ended came in Baron Turner's son that killed the gentlemen in Grayes inn fields and was tryed and quitt, which makes the poore people blame the Bench much. There was 7 condemned to dye, and they small felons, who it's thought may find the favour to be transported. I most humbly begg your Excellencyes pardon for my hast in this, the errors of which I humbly intreate you will excuse, as also that I had not time to give my

Lady Catherine notice of this opertunity, for it was 12 at night before I heard anything of itt, though I have been att the office all this day. I am, with all imaginable duty and respect,

May it please your Grace,
Your Grace's most obedient and obliged servant,
HENRY BALL.

B[illegible] Jan. 9.

No. 160.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 19 December, 1673.

Wee have not any from your Ex[cy] but what wee acknowledged by the ordinary on Monday last, when I sent your Ex[cy] the account I had from Mr. Burgesse. Some of the Commissioners from Scotland are already arrived, and Duke Hamilton is expected to-morrow, and though they come not to make any publick complaints against the Duke of Lauderdaill, but onely to excuse themselves in relation to their carriage dureing this Session of Parliament in Scotland, which they say they could not avoyd without greatly dissatisfying the people and hazarding the peace of that kingdom, yet it seems his Majesty intends to give them no very favorable reception, being resolved to discountenance all proceedings which may reflect upon his Commissioner.[1]

The late memoriall given in by the Spanish Ambassador, and the King's answer to it, makes us very much suspect the intentions of that crowne, I mean the marchants, and yet notwithstanding they are sending out a great fleet for the Streights, the omitting of which would they say very much prejudice their trade, and therefore are necessitated to continue it, though with

[1] Bishop Burnet says that the Duke of Hamilton came up by the King's invitation, and that the King's design was to treat Hamilton and his friends kindly in order to make the House of Commons more disposed to give him money, and that he had made up his mind, if the Parliament supplied him, to part with Lauderdale and to take Hamilton and Tweedale into employment. (Own Time, i. 369.)

a great deal of hazard. However, that nothing may be wanting on the King's part, his Majesty will provide them with good convoys sufficient to secure them against any enemy they may meet at sea; at present there are 20 of the King's frigatts in the Downes designed for convoys to severall parts, and some speake of sending some of them on a private designe to the West Indies.

The propositions made by the Spaniard on the part of the Dutch, though they cannot content his Majestie and ought not to satisfy the nation, yet many eminent persons, at least who pretend to be so, seem to approve of them, and think it ought to be lookt upon as a grievance if his Majesty does not accept of them. The preparations against spring are carried on with all possible diligence, and with the greatest successe that can be expected, considering the present juncture of things. It is not doubted but that the Prince will goe to sea, with larger instructions, and perhaps with more satisfaction than the last year, that is to speak in the language of the towne.

It is believed that wee shall have a very full house at the next meeting of the Parliament, and hope they will be more moderate in their proceedings, and consult the interest and honor of the nation, and truely severall of the soberer Parliament men seem ashamed of the vote they passed the last sessions concerning their giveing the King no supply &ca, and find they might have passed a vote which might better have attained their ends, and have better served the nation. There be people who make it their businesse to run from one company to another, tell of what the Parliament will doe at their next meeting, and at the same time infuse severall dangerous things amongst the people, and certainely these doeings betoken ill humors, and give all good men occasion to be troubled, and doubtlesse they would be more did they not believe that the King's great wisdom and goodnesse would at last dissipate them all.

This week a great fleet of colliers arrived in the river, and yet the price of coals continues as formerly, to the great oppression of the poorer sort of people, who have however been in some measure eased by a

mild season. Wee had a great report this last week of five men of warr, that had frequented all the northerne coasts, but it seems they were onely capers, who gott togeather by chance. From Spayne they write that all the Mediterranean, especially towards Cadiz, is extreamely infested by the Dutch capers, who cruise up and downe in great numbers.

Sir John Finch is gone from Florence on his way to Constantinople, haveing obtained all possible satisfaction in the things he complained off at that Court, and it appears on all occasions that the Grand Duke is very kind to the English. Sir Robert Carr commands me to present his humble service to your Ex^cy^ and to tell you that he has nothing to add to what he write by the last ordinary. I am, with all humble duty,

My Lord,

Your Excellency's most faithfull obedient servant,

R. Y[ARD].

R Jan. 8.

No. 161.—From Henry Ball.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, Dec. 18, '73.

By Captain Skelton's officers, on Wednesday night last, I presumed to trouble your Excellency and also to acquaint you that the knowledge of their going came to me just att 12 at night, so that I had no time to give my lady notice of itt, who wayted for such an opertunity. Mr. Barré was promised to goe all that day and wee depended on him for information, and he sayes that till 10 that night he did not know of his disappointment, and then Mr. Bridgman told him my Lord had resolved to send by those officers whom he thought he was to accompany. To-day wee heare there is more of them going when my Lord writes again, so that Mr. Barré dispaires of returning for some time. This evening I wayted on my lady, but her honor had been out all the afternoone so that I could

not know her commands. Shee has ordered me to leave all the letters that come to her at your Excellencyes house, whither shee is pleased to send twice every day for them, which course I shall be sure to observe as all other commands of your Ex^cy.

Wee have had no letters from abroade this weeke and consequently none to acknowledge from your Excellency.

On Monday Sir William Lockhart goes for France, his instructions being almost prepaired.

On Tuesday last the King's answer to the Spanish Ambassador's late memorial was sent him, and has been communicated to all the Spanish marchants, publique ministers, and persons of note in towne, so that the subject of itt is now noe secret, and therefore they say, that it may give the generall satisfaction, it shall be printed and it's hoped it's so penned as to be a very great plaister to heale the soares of divers eminent persons who can not be brought to believe the King desires really a peace, as by that they will see; itt makes now the talke of peace grow very hott againe and is a very pleasing sound in most people's ears.

The Towne fills apace, and it's believed there will bee a very full house next meeting, very many of the members having stayed in towne to be ready the first day; there is great hopes in generall that they will be satisfyed and assemble calmely, much of the heate of the talke being sensibly abated.

The Commissioners of the Admiralty meete very often, and the seamen say preparations goe on apace, yett they feare wee shall not be out so soon as the enemy, whose great preparations already does somewhat amase us. The Prince it's believed will goe out againe, the people desireing none but him.

Starkey the bookseller has again petitioned his Majesty, so that it's ordered he first give in bayle and then be sett at liberty, but the Attorney-Generall ordered to prosecute him.

The prohibition of the exportation of coales is continued for three months longer, and this day nothing done att councell besides petitions, but that their meeting is adjourned till after the holydayes.

This night the Dutchesse came again to court, and her mother

this day to see the King touch[1] in the banquetting-house. It was hoped her sweete carriage would have abated her enemyes, but there is again most horrid ill verses made of all the court, and dispersed about to the great scandall of the officers, that seeke noe wages to oppress itt.

The Earle of Kincardin and severall of the Duke of Lauderdall's friends are this day come to towne, and to-morrow comes in Duke Hamilton and the rest of the opponents. The talke is very hott of impeaching his Grace, but his freinds say the King is so well satisfyed with his Commissioner's proceedings that they will have but an ill reception. My Lord Hatton[2] promises by next express to write to your Excellency himselfe a full narrative of all those affaires, for wee heare nothing but storyes.

There has nothing happened of late att the Signett but warrants to the household. The King's servants begin to be much troubled for want of their salleryes, and the poore extraordinary gentlemen now deprived of that benefitt make a very sad complaint, and some of them they say are the King's old freinds, and that order has given but little satisfaction, because they say they can find out a new way now and sweare them into places and allow them diett and wayting, and then that order is out of doores, thus nothing will content some people.

I most humbly acknowledge my fault about the word your Excellency was pleased to take notice of, and hope ere this you have been pleased to pardon itt, for I am extreamely troubled till I heare myselfe to be restored to your favour, being ever,

My Lord,

May it please your Excellencyes most obedient servant,

HENRY BALL.

℟ Jan. 8.

[1] For the King's evil.

[2] Charles Maitland, of Hatton, a Senator of the Scotch College of Justice, called Lord Hatton, younger brother of Lauderdale, who succeeded him as third Earl of Lauderdale. He was Treasurer Deputy of Scotland.

No. 162.—From Sir Gilbert Talbot, M.P.

My Lord, Whitehall, Jan. 2 [1673-4].

I was yesterday honoured with yours of the 26th of the last, and in reply am to condole the loss of honest Luke Weekes, and to congratulate my owne good fortune, who am so well in your esteeme, as to receive from you the promise of a summary narrative of your negociation at Cullen, which I shall not more value as a marke of honour upon myself than as a thing necessary to be made publike at this time of jealousy, when (I feare) a factious Parlament is to meete which is apt to question and carp at all things beyond theyre sphere. His Majesty hath good hope that the satisfaction which he hath given in point of popery (by banishing all recusants from his Court, except the Queenes servants), and in securing the property of the subject, which were the two greate greivances, will allay the spirits of the malicious; but for my part I feare the ill humours will breake out when we embody, because it is scarce to be credited how much they have poysoned the generality of the people and taught them to esteeme ill of the governement. Some few well meaning people of us doe caball as formerly to try if we can find a way to divert the storme that threateneth, but there are soe many caballs of the malicious to countermine our counsailes that my feares far exceed my hopes, although the welfare nay the being of the nation dependeth absolutely upon the good correspondency betwixt the King and his Parliament at this time. Yet neither would our condition possibly be soe desperate, did not some of his Majestyes owne intimates help to blow the coale.

I either told you in my last or should have done it that at our last meeting the Duke of Bucks' name was started as a pernitious Minister, since which time he hath soe personally courted all the Members in towne, the debauchees by drinking with them, the sober by grave and serious discourses, the pious by receiving the sacrament at Westminster, that he thinketh he hath gained a strong party of freinds; and because he is of opinion that the Parliament must have a sacrifice to appease them, his greatest endeavour with

all men (next to the clearing of his owne innocency) is to caracterise the Lord Arlington for the most pernitious person in his Majestyes counsailes; but I hope we shall spoile his designe, for we have a petition to be presented against him in the Lords House for the death of the Earl of Shrewsbury and the scandalous cohabitation with his wife, and at the same time an impeachment against him in our House for none of the meanest crimes.

I ought not to adventure upon the State news because I am not qualifyed to know it; yet I will tell you that the Duchess of Modena is gone from us much unsatisfied, because all things that my Lord of Peterborough promised are not performed (as a free chappell for her daughter and the like).

The Duke[1] doth not declare himselfe, but leaveth it much suspected by waiting on the King to the Chappell on Christmass day, and leaving his Majesty when he went downe to receive. This, if I mistake not, will be the greatest occasion of complaint, because the Governement is left to apparent danger whensoever God shall take the King from us.

The French Ambassador hath taken his leave, and Mons^r^ Rovigny is come to succeed without any publike caracter.[2]

This day came an envoyé to his Majesty from Mayence, who was received in the bedchamber, whence all men but the Lords of Bedchamber and the groomes are excluded by new order.

I have noe more to add to your present trouble then this assurance that you have not a greater honourer then,

My Lord,

Your Ex^cyes^ most obedient and most faythfull Servant,

G. Talbot.

I pray you let my servant Tom know that I shall love him as he is faythfull and respectfull to your Lordship.

Indorsed,
Sir Gilb. Talbot.

By $\frac{11}{21}$.

[1] The Duke of York. [2] M. de Ruvigny came to take the place of M. Colbert.

No. 163.—From John Richards.

My Lord, Whitehall, Jan. 9th, 7¾.

His Lordshipp since his last hath received your Ex^cyes by the expresse you sent, who arrived here on Tuesday last, but your letters not having beene yet read before His Majesty, his Lordshipp excuses himselfe that he omits the writing this ordinary, and soe commands mee to acknowledge to your Ex^cy his being now in possession of yours of $\frac{\text{Jan. 6}}{\text{Dec. 25}}$ & $\frac{9}{30}$, and to send you the duplicate of his last of the 5^th inst. which your Ex^cy will accordingly receive here inclosed. The truth is my Lord's time is soe taken up with the multiplicity of affaires at present now at the opening of the Session of Parliament, that I beleive your Ex^cy may very well understand how excusable hee may bee in his little intermissions of his corresponding with that punctuality hee desires to observe.

On Wednesday, being the appointed day, the Parliament met, when the King and my Lord Keeper made the inclosed speeches, after which the House of Commons immediately adjourned till Monday next. The Lords continued sitting that day, and a Petition was preferred in their House by the guardians of the young Earle of Shrewsbury against the Duke of Buckingham for the murther of his father and wicked and lewd conversations with his mother ever since, and to which the Duke is appointed to answer on Wednesday next.

Upon the same day my Lord received two letters from Harwich, taken from a Dutch trumpeter belonging to the States Generall, who is detained in that Port by his Majesties Order; they were directed to the Spanish Ambassador, to whom my Lord immediately sent them, and yesterday morning hee returned one to my Lord from the States to His Majesty, which upon comparing appeares to bee the same that hath beene for some time dispersed here in print, many having beene sent in pacquets to severall Members of the House of Commons.

On Tuesday last the Spanish Ambassador delivered to His Majesty a letter from the Queene his mistresse, a copy whereof I here likewise inclose to your Ex^cy by my Lord Arlington's direction.

I have at length diligently compared the list your Ex^cy sent mee of the letters you had received from and sent to my Lord, and find my Lord hath exactly received all your list containes, but I find that of those my Lord hath sent, two are omitted in your list, viz^t of July 11^th & 14^th, your list mentioning none from the 4^th till the 18^th of that moneth, which is the onely difference I find in that account.

I must ever acknowledge your Ex^cyes great condescension in affording mee something by every occasion; at present I have the honor of your Ex^cies of $\frac{\text{Jan. } 6}{\text{Dec. } 25}$ & $\frac{9}{30}$, for which I returne my most humble thanks, and am, with all respect and devotion,

My Lord,

Your Ex^cies most humble & most obedient Servant,

Jo: Richards.

R. $\frac{18}{28}$.

No. 164.—From Colonel Roger Whitley, M.P.

My Lord, London Jan. $\frac{12}{22}$, 73(-4.)

I have your Lordship's of the 9^th, with the extracts of your negociation (which are now in Sir R. Wyseman's hands), and I humbly thank you for the honor of them.

I intended to have enlarged by this post, but am retorned late and weary from Westminster, where what the businesse of this day hath bin you will finde by the enclosed. We were above 400 in the House: you see what temper we are in: they talk of impeachments, yet I hope all will blow over, and that tyme and patience will produce moneyes. I heartily wish you here for a few dayes: never more need of plausible prudent managers.

The Lords have voted all their Members to take the Oathes of Allegiance; feares and jealousyes as rife as ever; you will have the rest from better handes; lesse then 10 dayes will shew us what we must trust to.

I humbly kisse your Excellencyes hands, and remaine,

My Lord,

Your Excellencyes most humble and obedient Servant,

Ro: Whitley.

Indorsed,
Coll: Whitley.
R. $\frac{18}{28}$.

No. 165.—From John Richards.

My Lord, Whitehall, Jan. 12, 7¾.

Knowing the votes of this day will come to your Ex^cye by hands of your owne, I think myselfe excused by onely telling your Ex^cy that the inclosed letter to the Duke of Newbourg in that of my Lord's is what hee promised in his last.

It is beleeved by all men, upon what some affirme to have seene and others to have heard, that my Lord Arlington will be impeached in Parliament within a day or two by some malicious person or other: God Almighty protect him![1]

I am most resignedly,

My Lord,

Your Ex^cies most obedient Servant,

Jo: Richards.

R. $\frac{18}{28}$.

No. 166.—From Thomas Fairfax.

My Lord, London, Jan. the 12th our stile, 1673(-4).

I was extreamly glad to find your Lordship's two letters att my

[1] The paragraph in italics is in cipher in the original.

comming out of the country, where Sir Lionell,[1] Lord Angier,[2] and J. Drauke often drank your Ex^cies^ health. This day the House satt and voted thanks to bee given to his Majestie for his most gracious Speech; I beleive thay will allsoe give him money, though first they may desire securitie against Popery—the old feare. The Duke of Buckingham had a petition presented against him in the House of Lords by the Shrewsbury family, a coppy of which I doubt not but your Excellency has; to-morrow the Duke gives in his answer; what will bee the issue of it I cannot say; thay talke of other impeachments, but I hope matters will goe well with all our freinds.

I am now to give your Excellency a thousand thanks for all your kindness to me, and am sorry that I can noe longer give your Lordship that small satisfaction (if it be one) of writeing to you, for to-morrow or next day I am goeing into France, and soe into Italy with my Lord Darby.[3]

But, wherever I am, if I may receive your Ex^cyes^ commands you shall ever find mee, my Lord,

Your Ex^cies^ most faithfull freind and most humble Servant,

T. Fairfax.

I have taken care to have poore Patrick sent into Irland when hee comes over.

℞ $\frac{1}{2}\frac{8}{8}$.

[1] Probably Sir Lionel Walden, M.P. for Huntingdon, described by Andrew Marvell (1677) as "5,000*l.* in the King's debt, a Blackheath captain and a papist: at present has a company of foot and 1,000*l.* given him."

[2] An Irish peer, nephew and successor of the Lord Aungier whom Evelyn often speaks of as his friend and a man of learning. This Lord Aungier was created Viscount Longford in 1675.

[3] Fairfax, the writer of this letter, was now engaged by the Duke of Ormond to act as travelling companion and tutor to the young Earl of Derby, who had just married his grand-daughter, Lady Elizabeth Butler, daughter of the Earl of Ossory. (See vol. i. p. 29, and note.) Lord Derby being young, and his wife younger, only fourteen, the bridegroom was sent to travel for a few years before consummation of the marriage, and a tutor, Forbes, the Phaleg of Dryden, was sent with him. The young Earl was very rakish and refractory, and Forbes unable to manage him. Carte, the Duke of Ormond's biographer, relates the selection of Fairfax to take

No. 167.—From William Bridgeman.

My Lord, Whitehall, Janry 16th, '7¾.

By the copie of the Journall of the Houses your Excie will see what has been transacted there this week, and how two of our great men have been *run downe*,[1] the latter of which, the Duke of Buckingham, having, in a speech he made in the House of Commons, reflected *much upon my Lord*,[2] he was in pursuance thereof yesterday impeached by *Sir Gilbert Gerard*, seconded by *Sir Charles Wheeler;* upon which *my Lord*, having desired *the King's and the House of Lords' leave*, as also *that of the House of Commons*, yesterday in the morning *made a speech to the Commons*, and so the debate of that matter was adjourned untill this day, when it was again resumed by *Sir Gilbert Gerard*, who, accusing him of *corresponding with the King's enemyes and of disclosing his secrets to foreigne ministers*, and consequently of *high treason*, and it being

Forbes' place, and Fairfax's success. "The Duke, seeing what the young gentleman would be at, resolved to send over one that should govern him. For this purpose he pitched upon Colonel Thomas Fairfax, a younger son of the great Lord Fairfax, a gallant and true man (as all the Fairfaxes were) and roughly honest. Lord Derby was restiff at first, but the Colonel told him sharply that he was sent to govern him and would govern him; that his Lordship must submit and should do it; so that the best method he had to take was to do it with decorum and good humour. He soon discharged the vicious and scandalous part of the Earl's acquaintance, and signified to the rest that he had the charge of that young nobleman, who was under his government, and therefore if any of them should ever have a quarrel with his pupil, who was young and inexperienced, himself was their man and would give them satisfaction. His courage was too well known to tempt any body to make a trial of it; the nobleness of his family and his own merit procured him respect from all the world as well as from his pupil. No quarrel happened; the Earl was reclaimed, being always very observant of his governor." James Forbes, the governor whom Fairfax succeeded, is described by Carte as "a grave, sober-minded man, whose sage remonstrances had no manner of effect on his pupil." (Carte's Life of Duke of Ormond, vol. i. p. 445.) Dryden has very grossly libelled Forbes, under the name of Phaleg, in the Second Part of Absalom and Achitophel, lines 330-349, where see note at p. 161 of Globe edition of Dryden's Poetical Works.

[1] The words in italics are in cipher in the original.

[2] The Earl of Arlington.

insisted on by *my Lord's* friends that they might come to the proofe of the matter, the gentleman desired time till to-morrow either to prove it or goe from it, which being granted, the debate was adjourned till to-morrow. To tell you my opinion, upon the whole I am very confident *Earl of Arlington will come off with great* reputation *and credit*, and the world bee convinced of the malice of the accusation, which as it was chiefly designed by *the Duke of Buckingham*, it has been accordingly pursued. Whatever becomes of the matter, though the worst should happen, *Earl of Arlington hath* gotten *this* character, that nobody could have behaved himselfe more like a nobleman and a man of parts, and with greater civility without servile flattery (which the other is noted for) than *my Lord did*, and on the contrary *the Duke of Buckingham as* meanly, to say no worse, as could bee. Whilst these matters are upon the stage (*what I am afraid will not end with the Earl of Arlington*, severall *other persons being like to be brought* also *in the Howse*), *his Majesty's businesse* is like *to suffer*, and God knows whether *if the Howse give a supply* it *will come in time*, which I must confesse I very *much doubt*, and the rather because I finde most people here are possessed with *an opinion that the Dutch* are content *to make the peace upon any reasonable termes*, so much have *the Dutch arrived by their artifices* upon the *generality of the people* and some no inconsiderable members *of the Government.*

My Lord Arlington commands mee to acknowledge your Ex^cies^ of the $\frac{2}{12}$ by the post, and the $\frac{6}{10}$ and $\frac{9}{19}$ by Mr. Carleton, who arrived here yesterday. The letters have been this evening read at the Committee of Forraigne affairs, and what requires an answer my Lord says you shall have by the next. He bids mee adde that he does not despaire but *the House will goe* upon *a supply* for *the King the next* week.

I am with much respect,

My Lord, your Ex^cies^ most faithfull
and most humble servant,
Wm. Bridgeman.

B 28.

No. 168.—From Sir Thomas Player.

Sir, Jan^{y} 16, 1673(-4).

With some difficulty I procured the inclosed paper the 15th instant. It was brought into the House of Commons by Sir Gilbert Gerrard, and offer'd to be proved. My Lord Arlington, haveing obtained leave of the House of Lords, came into the House of Commons after an hour's stay in the lobby. He made a speech of the length of an houre and a quarter. After he was gone the House adjourned the debate till the next day. Ten a' clock this day the charge was read againe in the House. The Attorney-Generall declared his opinion upon one or two of the articles that they were treason, upon which the House ask't Sir Gilbert Gerrard whether he had proofe. He said there was a noble person had witnesses to prove; soe the further debate of the charge was put off to Saturday the 17th. On Tuesday the 13th, upon a charge against Lauderdale, they past a vote to begg of his Majestie that he might be for ever banisht from the King's person and councells. Then they charged the Duke of Buckingham, and he, haveing notice of it, desired to be admitted into the House of Commons upon his defence. After the House had prepared themselves and questions for the Duke, they call'd him in: the questions I have inclosed with some answers.[1] These questions were some or most of them askt him on Wensday the 14th, for he was then alsoe in the House of Commons.

Thus our matters stand. Sir Robert Vyner, Sir Joseph Sheldon, Mr. Common Serjeant, and myselfe, are now togeather and drinke your health most heartily.

[1] The questions and answers are to be read in the Parliamentary History, vol. iv. pp. 643-5. Like questions were afterwards put to Arlington.

I intreat your Ex^cy to pardon the confusion of these papers: they are written in extraordinary hast because I am not willing to misse the post.

Your Ex^cys most obedient Servant,

T. P[LAYER].

Fryday night.

Indorsed,
SIR T. PLAYER.

No. 169.—FROM SIR CHRISTOPHER MUSGRAVE, M.P.

My Lord, Jan. 16, [167¾].

I have had the honour of receiveing many letters by your order. Haveing nothing worthy your knowledg I presumed upon your goodnes ffor pardoning my silence rather than give you the trouble of my impertinence, and this may be justly termed so, being well assured you have better account of proceedings then I am capable of. What passed on Munday relateing to my Lord Ludderdale I will say onely this; it was proved by Mr. Man, Mr. Perpoint, Mr. Scroop,[1] how that his Lordship declared in Councell that his Majesties edicts were equally to be law and to be preferred before it.[2] His sentence you have received. Upon Tuesday Mr. Stockdale exhibited a charge against the Duke of Buckingham, which is transmitted you. Imediately the Speaker acquainted the House he had received a letter signed Buckingham, in which he requested leave to acquaint the House with something ffor their services. Leave being given him, he imediately ffell to excuse himself ffrom

[1] Sir Scroop Howe.

[2] Sir Robert Thomas opened the matter against Lauderdale, and named Sir Scroop Howe, Mr. Man, Mr. Robert Pierpoint, and Lord St.John, as witnesses of Lauderdale's words. Lord St.John testified at some length: the three others briefly: all four testified positively.

being concerned in makeing the treaty with France, and severall other matters relateing to the war; but his discourse was ffull of distraction, and sayd he was weary of the company he was joyned with, and knew how to kill a hare with hounds but could not hunt with lobsters. His narrative was as unsatisffactory to you as mine is imperfect. The next day he desired leave to be heard againe. Accordingly he was, and descended more to particulars than in his fformer discourse, and the Speaker was ordered to aske him some questions then, and his answers I know are sent you. They did not answer expectation. Many of our corner did not seem so zealous as in other matters. Nothing was sayd to justify him, and the question was put ffor his removeall, and very ffew negatives.

The next day Sir Gilbert Gerrard exhibited a charge against the Lord Arlington, and seconded by Sir Cha: Wheeler, whereupon Sir Robert Carr acquainted the Speaker he had received a letter ffrom my Lord Arlington's servant, directed to the Speaker, to be communicated to the House, in which he desired leave to be heard; and being theirupon called in, he took notice of some discourses abroad and some imperfect papers come to his hand, which upon opening appeared to containe most of what the Duke of Buckingham charged him with, and likewise most of the Articles exhibited. In my opinion I never heard any person express himself with that modesty, clearness, and eveness of temper as his Lordship did, which gained upon very many, and conffessed it was beyond their expectation. The debate was adjourned till to-day, and after a long silence it was resumed; the persons concerned pressed to proceed upon the Articles as they lay in order, but, the last concerning treason, it was thought reasonable to proceed upon it in the ffirst place; at length Sir Gilbert sayd he was told by an honourable person that their was one would make it good. This not being agreeable to the House, he desired time to see if he could make it good to-morrow, which was accordingly granted. I am of opinion it will be very difficult to doe; and then I doe not doubt but his Lordship hath

made such an impression as will blow off the rest. I doe not ffind people generally warme in it. You know I am obliged to doe as becomes

Your Lordship's most humble servant,
C. M[USGRAVE].

Indorsed,
SIR C. MUSGRAVE.

No. 170.—FROM WALTER OVERBURY.

Mewes, the 16th Jany, 167¾.

I must confesse, my Lord, I am in a very deepe arreare with your Excy, and dare not lett your debt run too farr for feare it become desperate. My greatest remorce I must needes say was the continuall hopes of seing my Lord Arlington, which till to-day I never could effect, though I presume a line from you at my arrivall here would have introduced mee sooner. Wee had but very little discourse, I having beene here soe long, and he imagining I came with T. Fairefax, whoe is now turn'd Sancho and leaving us, as I presume by this time he hath informed your Excy how and on what score, but it is what was formerly intended, had not the meere pinke of courtesy carryed him on to Cologne, when I saw his letters at Dover from greate persons that importuned his returne if he were not too farr engaged. He hath committed his concernes with your Excy into my care, of which in your comands I shall be most diligent, soe farr as my jenius will render mee capable. I need not tell you, my Lord, what is done at Westminster, since 'tis not what I am sure will or can please you yet, all things looking with soe ill a face. Thir is expected to be a bloody weeke with peachments and accusations.

I have taken care to impart your Cologne letters to many of my discreetest friends, and I find it hath given them very great satisfaction in what they never knew nor indeed could not beleeve. I

have much to say to you, my Lord, too tedious to incert here: it cheifly concernes your selfe, and I am told that who you take for your friends are not soe, and I am the more induced to beleeve it in one person that lives in the Pall Mall, whoe I am sure is noe more a stranger to our friendship than to my face, and yet was never the man that said to mee, How does Sir Joseph? But if letters passe betwixt you I hope it may not be soe.

Would you think it, my Lord? I have one of the finest children in England my godsone,—having the honour of personating your Ex^cy; and how the scene will alter at your returne, I cannot yet imagine. For in Mr. George's opinion I am the man. The good old Countesse and her good old C.C. cause are both the worse for wearing. Poore lady, she grows very decrepid, and (though doubtlesse very chast,) yet when you come to lift her she is as light as may be. Lett every tub stand on its own bottome, and Sir Nic.[1] (when he is able) answer for him selfe! He hath beene long confined to his house, having had some difference with one Mons. La Gout, that offer'd an affront to his inferior members, and of late hath kept his bed upon it: before which he was more adicted to poetry. Having made greate progresse, his workes are not to be committed to publique view before they come out in print, and to be dedicated to Justice Ball, a lover of learning. Those of our society within our gates are allready rejoycing at this new change, and that they shall have a new Master of the Horse ere long, and they hope much better than [the] old one, whoe is in a very faire way of marching off,[2] the Parliament having made inspection into his and the Lady's actions of carnality. The little gentleman without our gate and all his attendance are lately stept aside to the tune of 300*l.* on tick at a neighbouring cookes for sustenance for him and his retinue, besides 50*l.* endebted to the very ground he stood on, and being unfortunately discovered in his endeavouring

[1] Perhaps Sir Nicholas Armourer.
[2] The Duke of Buckingham.

to escape, was immediately sent to one of the London Universitys for better breeding. This, if I mistake not, reflects much on our friend Sir Nic. whoe was their greate patron.

This weeke the hopes of England, Sir George Pratt's sonne, was gather'd to his fathers, and hath left a brave estate to be dispersed in Westminster Hall.

I find my Lord Arlington hath quallified the fury of the House beyond expectation. It's thought by many and hoped by most of his friends that things will goe well with him. But Lauderdale and Buckingham are defunct, as by other hands you will be more at large inform'd of all perticulars in that kind.

I find they are given to change in the country too, and in matters that more concerne my proper person, for this weeke my elder brother hath putt an end to all my expectations and taken unto him a helpe meete. I hear she is (with respect unto her sister-shipp) a fulsom horse-godmother, though not yet 15.

I wish I had better newes, but be pleas'd to take all in good part, and I shall endeavour to affirme my selfe,

My Lord,

Your Ex^cyes most humble Servant,

WALT. OVERBURY.

Mr. Pepys laid a strict injunction upon mee to present your Ex^cy with his most humble service.

R. 28 Jan. / 7 Feb.

No. 171.—FROM SIR GILBERT TALBOT, M.P.

Sir, Whitehall, Jan. 16th [167¾.]

I have but a very little time to acquaint your Excellency with matters of greate moment during the short time of the Session. Hetherto his Majesty made a most gracious speech to both Houses at the opening of the Session, which I doubt not but hath been transmitted to you together with the Lord Keeper's. The House of

Commons, according to old wont, would not heare of money till greivances were redressed. In order to this they fell upon Duke Lauderdale upon Munday last, and it being attested by four members of the House that they heard him say at the councill table that the King's edicts had the force of law, and were to be observed above law, an address was voted to desire the King that he might be put out of all employment, and banished the King's counsailes and presence for ever. The next day Stockdale accused the Duke of Buckingham of many high misdemeanours; which he hearing of, writt a letter to the Speaker to desire leave of the House that he might be heard, promising to make discoveryes of great matters. When he came in he betrayed greate guilt by his consternation, feare, and distracted discourse, which tended onely to justify himself for all evill counsailes, and to charge them on the Lord Arlington. He was asked many questions, but made such imperfect answeres that he was desired the next day to speake clearer to the interrogatoryes; but after another confused discourse he withdrew, and a vote passed upon him of the same nature of that of Duke Lauderdale's, saving that they desired he might have liberty to make over his places, because they would not touch his freehold, but onely what was held during pleasure. Yesterday in reveng of this Sir G. Gerard and Sir Ch. Wheeler brought in a charge against my Lord Arlington, and he desiring leave to be heard acquitted himselfe soe handsomely that there was not a man in the House seemed to have any dislike to him, and Gerard moved to withdraw his papers, but an indiscreete freind proposing to have him voted innocent,[1] caused the House to adjourne the debate till this morning, and when the order of adjourning the debate was read, the House sat a long time mute, and we were going to proceed upon the report of an election, but an officiously ignorant Otway[2] moved againe for a declaration of innocence, which being seconded by a passionate expression of J. Howe, the House fell upon the debate and have made it a matter

[1] Mr. Howe.

[2] Sir John Otway, Attorney of the Duchy of Lancaster.

of doubtfull issue. Sir G. G. hath time till to-morrow to arme himself with proofe of betraying the King's counsailes to the enemy, and other angry spirits will press other matters; but I still hope well.

The Duke of Buckingham hath a petition brought into the Parliament house against him by the Earle of Shrewsbury's nearest relations, which involveth the Lady Shrewsbury; whereupon she is fled, but hath had a summons to appeare, and will be proceeded against as to banishment and loss of her joynture: what will be the issue of these matters you shall heare hereafter.

I thank you for the kindness to my servant Tom, and am

Your Excellencyes most humble and thankfull servant,

G. Talbot.

℞ 28/7 Feb.

No. 172.—From Thomas Blood.[1]

Honored Sir, Jan. 19, 73(-4).

I tooke the boldnes to send you a tedius accompte by Fryday's post of the proceedings of the Howse. I have now againe preshumed to give you an accompte of Saturday and to day. On Saturday the Howse haveing the day before ajourned concerning a witnes to bee broght in to prove that artickell of treson, my Lord's corresponding with the King's enimies, they accordingly had binn broght in, and hee only testified that hee had it from a creddible witnes that now was in France, and beleeved that it was true. The witnes, thogh he was cald by my Lord's opposers a worthy person of creddit, was, as hee stood in the lobby, knowne to sum of my Lord's friends to bee one of those roges that was in the con-

[1] The ruffian who attempted to murder the Duke of Ormond and to steal the regalia from the Tower, and who, on being pardoned by the King, became a privileged frequenter of the Secretary of State's office. See vol. i. p. 14, note.

spirasy against Mr. Hemming, and a creture of the Duke of Buckingames now ; beesides that of Hemins his tryall, wherein it was declared by the bench and all to bee a prodigius designe. At a tryal since upon an action of conspiracy Hemins had judgment against them, and some of them as they were found has laine ever since in prison. This occasioned the adversarys to decline this artickle for impeaching my Lord, together with their desier to keepe it in the channell of outing my Lord by vote. On common fame my Lord's frinds stuck to have him impeached: the contest continued till late in the afternoone a Saterday: the Howse then ajorned untill to-day, beeing Monday. To-day a littel after 9 in the morning they reshumed the debate, whether an impeachment in the House of Lords or the way they proceeded against Buckingham and Lodderdale by common fame in small misdemeanors. My Lord's frinds was for his impeachment,[1] the others with as much violence against impeachment; it held them untill 5 of the clock at night; the Howse then put it to the vote whether to have candels or no; they devided and came to the pole; my Lord's frinds were for

[1] The desire of Lord Arlington's friends for an impeachment is explained in a letter of Sir William Temple to Arthur Capel, Earl of Essex, then in Ireland as Lord Lieutenant, written January 21, 1674, the day after the rejection of the motion for an Address to remove Arlington from all his employments and from the King's presence and councils. "I thought the best service I could do your Excellency was to give you no trouble; nor should I do it now, but to tell you how far two of your friends have been concerned in the affairs of this day, which I think my Lord Arlington ought to esteem the happiest of his life. After five days' debate, we at length passed a negative upon that question wherein the affirmation went so deep with the two Dukes: and the other question for his impeachment was the thing wholly pursued and carried for him by his friends as that which must fall, or, if it proceeded, must end with honour to him." Lord Essex's other friend, about whom Temple wrote, was his brother Sir Henry Capel, who, according to Temple, had done Arlington more good than any one else in the House of Commons. (Courtenay's Life of Temple, ii. 93.) Mr. Courtenay remarks that Sir Henry Capel is not mentioned in the Parliamentary History as taking part in these debates; but the Parliamentary History gives very little of the debates: they are fully reported in Anchitel Grey's Debates, where a long speech of Sir Henry Capel may be read. The accounts in these letters mention incidents not even recorded in Grey's Debates.

ajorning and no candells, the others for candels and sitt it out, but my Lord's frinds carried it by many votes, which was some meshure of their strength in the Howse, though but in a small busnes, for my Lord's frinds were thoght by the long sitting to bee more absent then of the others. They are ajorned till to-morrow till 10; it is hopfull that my Lord will carry it.

Sir, I desier one favor of you in the behalfe of Mr. Newman's brother, that you would be plesed to signify to my Lord that first hee was sent by your directions over; secondly, that hee did behave himselfe as became him; thirdly, what time hee was there, and money hee had of you. I beg your pardon for my scribling and this trubble, desiering your letter to these particulars: hee to my knowledge went in May and returned in May the yeare following.

Sir, I am

Your Ex^cies most humble servant,

B^r 28/7 Feb. THO. BLOOD.

No. 173.—FROM JAMES VERNON.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 19th Jan. [167¾.]

Upon the receipt of your Excellencyes of the 6th instant I acquainted his Grace[1] with your commands concerning the horse, who immediately ordered me to returne your Excellency his thankes, and he desires that you would be pleased to make his acknowledgements to the Bishop of Strasbourg. He thinkes he need not propose any way for the sending over the horse, because he knows your Excellency will find out the most convenient one to do it; and he ventures to rely upon you that you will allow him to give you this trouble, and whatever the charge shall bee his Grace will order it to bee immediately repayed, whither you thinke fitt to send it along

[1] The Duke of Monmouth.

with a groome of your owne, or any other carefull person. I may add as from my selfe that it will be a very acceptable present to his Grace att this time, and the rather because one horse of the sett is now ill, and not like to recover. I do not trouble your Excellency with our news, because I know you receive it from those that are as well acquainted with it as I am; onely att this time I may say things looke very ill as to our private concerns. I fear my Lord[1] is at the eve of his removall. There hath been a fierce debate this day about him that hath lasted five or six howres; yet notwithstanding his cleare defense of himselfe, notwithstanding they can find nothing upon him of all that is objected against him, and notwithstanding a message from the King to the House in his behalfe, yet siding and party are like to prevayle, and he must fall because he stands by others that are pusht at. Upon this occasion I must ask leave to remember a text which saith in another case, Master, hadst thou been here he had not dyed. But God grant if the accidents of humane greatnesse must passe upon him, since they cannot lay any thing of treason to his charge, that his condemnation be no prejudice to his reputed heir[2] and successour.

Your Excellency having been pleased in your letter to take notice of some reports you had heard which Mr. Ellis passed for the authour of, I thinke it my duty to lett you know that I have not much conversed with Mr. Ellis since his returne, and therefore cannot say much; but for those few times I have been in his company I ought to do him the justice to assure your Excellency I never heard him mention you disrespectfully or undecently, and this I am the rather bold to say because I find what judgement your Excellency hath allready made of such an information as a thing light and frivolous. I cannot deny but that common fame, which never spared one, hath likewise been busy with your Ex^cy^; but I always looked upon such discourses as things that great men ought to expect, and wise men will always despise; for it is no new thing that a shadow should bear a proportion to the greatness of its body.

[1] The Earl of Arlington.

[2] The writer alludes to the great man he is addressing.

By these changes my Lord Duke is like to bee either Master of the Horse or Commissioner of Scotland, the last of which he is pressed to accept, and one argument they propose is, they will give him the double of what my Lord Lauderdale hath at present; but he referrs all to the King.

I am, my Lord,
Your Excellencyes most obedient and faithful servant,
J. Vernon.

R 28.

No. 174.—From John Richards.

My Lord, Whitehall, January 19th, '7$\frac{3}{4}$.

What I hinted to your Ex^{cy} in my last your Ex^{cy} will have heard by the last ordinary of the impeachment of my Lord Arlington, and by the journalls of every day (which Mr. Ball tells mee hee constantly sends you,) your Ex^{cy} will see the whole progresse of it, as you will see by his Lordshipp's owne letter, that to-morrow will bee the criticall day, when hee is to expect what his owne innocence and friends can prevaile for him. There is a party very passionate against him, but, his friends being many and zealous for him, I trust in God that malice will not bee able to hurt him.

I humbly acknowledge the honor of your Ex$^{cy's}$ of the $\frac{2}{12}$, $\frac{6}{16}$, and $\frac{9}{19}$. What your Ex^{cy} was pleased to recommend to mee in the last of laying before his Lordshipp some of your Ex$^{cy's}$ letters of June and August, to bring to his remembrance what you then insisted on relateing to the trade in the Indies, I have justly performed, though your Ex^{cy} will easily believe his Lordshipp hath had little leisure to think of any affaires but his owne.

God Almighty preserve and support him from the fury of his enemies, and grant your Ex^{cy} a happy issue of your negotiation!

I am ever most entirely, my Lord,
Your Ex$^{cy's}$ most humble and faithfull ser^{t},
R 28. Jo. Richards.

No. 175.—From Thomas Fairfax.

My Lord, Dover, January the 20th, 1673(-4), our stile.

The many obligations I have had from your Excelly makes mee take all opportunities to pay your Lordship my respects; and I was very glad that Mr Barry overtooke my Lord Darby and mee att this place that I might (though you have it from others,) tell your Excy how matters goe with Lord Arlington. 'Twas thought after the House of Commons had voted the Dukes Lauderdale and Buckingham soe hardly that their passions would allsoe have reach'd him. But his owne eloqueance, generositie, and innocence wrought soe much on them that all his enimies could not make them pass any vote against him, and soe the businesse was referr'd till next day. Sir Gilbert Gerrard said hee could prove high treason against him, but nothing appears of that nature. The businesse is referr'd to a committee, but itt's generally beleev'd by most people, and a great many sober ones, hee will come off with great honor. My good Lord Ossory[1] went with him to the House of Commons' doore. I hope the Parliament will now give the King money to facilitate the peace, that your Excy may bee backe againe, for you are wanted in England. I doe assure your Excy none will have greater share in your Excy's good success in this treaty, and all other things that concernes your wellfare, then,

My Lord,

Your Excy's most faithfull friend and humble servant,

T. Fairfax.

When I come to settle anywhere your Excy shall bee sure to bee troubled with what I know in those parts where I am.

My most humble services to my Lord Ambassador Jenkins.

R 28/7 Feb.

[1] Arlington's brother-in-law. They had married two sisters.

No. 176.—From Sir Gilbert Talbot, M.P.

Sir, Whitehall, Jan. 23 [167$\frac{3}{4}$].

I have your Excellencyes of the $\frac{13}{23}$ of this moneth with the account of the Holland proceedings in the treaty, which call for my present thanks, which I most heartily returne. I am very glad of your proposall of a weekely correspondence, because I am not onely secured by the freindly motion that mine will be noe trouble to you, but foresee how necessary it may be for your Excellency to know the constant passages of the House of Commons, and for me to receive some account of your transactions there, because I can with less suspicion then those of the Councill communicate the matters to some usefull members, which if it came from the Councill might look like designe. Be pleased therefore soe to frame your letters to me that I may make that good use of them, and I assure you all is but necessary, for the malicious party endeavour to make the present warr pass for a greivance, and faine would charge the fault of it upon the King and his counsailers. Greate endeavour was made in the House four days together to have my Lord Arlington included in the Address of the House to the King for removeall of him from all employment, from the King's counsailes, and from his presence for ever, as in the case of the two Dukes, but we carryed it in the negative by 39 voyces.[1] He was mainely accused upon three heads of misdemeanour: viz. popishly affected, procurer of the French league and breaker of the triple league, and embeaseller of the revenue: of these we cleared him by vote of non-addresse. There was in the charge (beside) an article of high treason for betraying the King's counsailes to the enemy, and another of suborning false witnesses to take away the life of a pair.[2] Now, that nothing of

[1] By 166 to 127.

Peer. This refers to proceedings against Buckingham in 1667, when he was proclaimed a traitor, dismissed from the Privy Council, and sent to the Tower, but soon obtained the King's forgiveness, and returned to greater favour and power than before. See letter No. 178, p. 130.

this nature might lye upon the journall, we were content that a committee might be appointed to consider if these two last articles or any thing conteined in the other three generall heads afforded proofe enough to proceed to an empeachement. The committee is this afternoone to give an account of that matter, and I write this at two of the clock, fearing least I may be deteined soe long at the committee that it may otherwise be too late to write by this post, yet if we rise time enough I will give an account of our success this day in a postscript. The person that brought in this charge against our freind was Sir G. Gerard, the cheife seconder Lord Cornebury and Sir Cha. Wheeler. The witnesse produced to proove the betraying of counsailes, Captain Paulden, the Duke of Buckingham's chimist; his evidence, a man to come out of France.

We have not touched upon any thing yet but grievances, and have voted another test for discovery and conviction of Papists throughout the kingdome. Much discourse hath bin used to damne the junto; and how far they will drive in the upper bench and south-east corner of the House I cannot yet tell. I am returning in diligence to the Committee, and must profess, in as much haste as reality, that I am

Your Excellencyes most humble
and most faythfull servant,
G. Talbot.

The committee is ajourned till Munday next, soe that you can have no account of this matter till this day 7-night. I forgott to tell you that my Lord Gerard[1] is a fierce stickler against my Lord Arlington.

℞ $\frac{2}{12}$ Feb.

No. 177.—From Francis Lord Aungier.[2]

My Lord, London, Jan. 23, 1673(-4).

The honour of your Lordship's of the $\frac{9}{19}$ currant I have receaved, and in it so greate a favour by that gentle admonition you give me

[1] Digby, fifth Lord Gerard.

[2] See note at p. 110.

for my long silence that I knowe no better how to expresse my acknowledgments then by admireing your goodnesse, which can so easily passe over the faults of your servants. Yett lett me tell you this effect it has wrought, that I shall never be guilty of the like errour, and therefore I hope you will forgett what is past.

Since my arrivall here you will easily imagine I have beene as much to seeke what would become of affaires at home as you are in the darke abroad, and really this has been the greate reason why I have beene of late silent. I doe not doubt but that you have had an exact account of what proceedings have beene in both Howses of Parliament,—how it has fared with the two greate Dukes Buckingham and Lauderdale, and how much better fortune my Lord Arlington has had, who, after five dayes' debate whether he should be removed from all the employments he holds dureing his Majesty's pleasure, and from his Majesties presence and councills for ever, on Tuesday last it was carryed in the negative, so that the Howse will now proceede by way of impeachment against him if there can be matter found fitt for an impeachment that can be proved, in order to which a committee has beene appoynted, which has twice mett, but nothing done; and 'tis the opinion of all sober and indifferent persons nothing can come of this impeachment, for the persons themselves who brought them into the Howse are beleeved to designe nothing further then the makeing a noise, and this was the more evident because they would have declyned the articles and condemnd my Lord for company (by common fame) with the two Dukes.

Thus we have spent our time hitherto about perticular persons. To-morrowe the Howse is to be turned into a comittee to debate of the greivances occasioned by the warr, and if from thence a handle can be taken to make a lusty vote that may frighten the Dutch your worke at Cologne will be easyer, and the Dutch Ambassadours putt past their subterfuges. But perhaps you will say so serious and prudent a result for the publique good is not to be expected from so angry a beginning. I protest I knowe not what to thinke of it; but I am sure his Majesty's goodnesse is very greate to permitt us to sett all

this while and please our owne humours, without so much as hinting at a supplye or takeing his condition into our thoughts; but for this I hope the Howse will soone make him an amends, and when they fall about this worke I am confident they will doe it to purpose.

This day at the clubbe we dranke your health, as we doe commonly every day. Our knott keepe still together, and make the same good cheare we were wont; Chettneyne keepes up his good humour. But I forgett your Lordship's time and occasions, which will not allowe you many minutes to entertaine trifles of this kind. I must therefore conclude with professing to your Lordship that in the world there is not one who more heartily wishes your honour and prosperity then,

My Lord,

Your Excellencyes most humble servant,

FRAN: AUNGIER.

R. $\frac{2}{12}$ Feb.

No. 178.—FROM SIR ROBERT SOUTHWELL.

My Lord, January 23, 1673.

By the last post your Ex^cy had a generall summary accompt of what past in the House with relation to my Lord Arlington, upon whose cause, after five dayes' debate, wee did on Tuesday night divide the House, and 127 were for passing the like vote as in the case of the Duke of Buckingham, but 166 were against it; and that which wee laboured all along was to proceede formally upon the impeachment brought in by Sir Gilbert Gerrard; so that when this vote was over they appointed a committee to examyne the proofs of the said indictment, which will, I believe, vanish and come to nothing, not because of the Act of Grace, which pardons all things mentioned with any hope of proofe except the subornation of per-

jury, but because even in this, tho' it was said two witnesses were ready, yet I believe nothing wilbe made appeare by the Duke of Buckingham, who is the party concerned at the tyme he was clapt in the Tower.

The temper of the House beats wonderfully towards a peace. The French allyance and the warre sound equally ungratefull, and scape not all the reflections that indignation can throw upon them. They have entertained a petition from severall masters of shipps who were prest, and have debated and agravated that point so high that the doctrine asserted by severall was that in an offensive warre no man was bound to serve or lyable to be forced that did not accept the imprest money, from whence it is easy to see the impossibility of maning a fleet this spring, and not onely the necessity of a peace now but the impossibility of a warr hearafter without the Parliament, for the whole matter of pressing men and shipps is committed, and a Bill to be prepared sutable to the debates of the House. To-morrow is a grand day for enquiry into the grievance of the War and the sad condition of the kingdome thereupon, and whether this will end in things or persons I cannot yet determyne. I doe believe something of the latter is in meditation. There is a Bill ordered, not onely for regulating Elections, but for qualifying members, who must be either residing as inhabitants, or have estates in the country from whence they are returned. There is a Bill for a new generall test between Protestant and Papist, and to incapacitate all to sit in either House who shall refuse it; and you are left to guesse where these and the like things doe tend. The House are very jealous and tender of his Majesties honor in the debate of all these grievances, and will not allow any officer to vouch his Majesty's command, but make him answerable for the King, as it is agreeable with the law. There is a Bill preparing to extend the benefit of habeas corpus to a degree beyond any possibility of hurting the subject's liberty by any warrants of state, &c.

Your Ex^cy will easily imagine how much wee have rejoyced in my Lord Arlington's good hap, for whom his Majesty was much

concern'd, and as much displeased against the Duke of Buckingham for his behavior in the House—disclosing his councills, and telling things not agreeable to the truth. Since the House's vote he has not appeared at the Court, nor was he summoned this night to the Cabinett, but lies close at Dr. Sprat's.[1] If your Ex^cy were on this side 'tis believed my Lord Arlington would soone put the pen into your hand. My Lord Cornbury and Sir Charles Wheeler followed him with a keene prosecution, and yet Sir Charles is himselfe at this tyme but in the middle of the river, and perhapps Saint Christopher[2] may let him drop.

Mr. Secretary Coventry is at present somewhat ill, and 'tis no wonder, considering the vast paines he takes in the House, being like the cherubin with his flaming sword, turning it every way to defend his master's cause.

I beg pardon for tyring your Ex^cy, and am ever

Yours.

[R. SOUTHWELL.]

Indorsed,
SIR R. SOUTHWELL.

No. 179.—FROM WALTER OVERBURY.

Mewes, the 26th January, 167$\frac{3}{4}$.

Since my last to your Excellency I have very little divertion for you, bateing what the enclosed will give you when Jack hath perused them. Friends are well in Queene streete, and going into mourning for the Lord Howard's mother.

The old Countess is wonderfull decrepid and full of questions. My Lady hath as good as gotten the honor continued to her for her sone.

[1] Dr. Sprat, afterwards Bishop of Rochester, was the Duke of Buckingham's chaplain.

[2] Alluding to the legend of Saint Christopher wading across the ferry.

My Lord Arlington hath held it out bravely in the House, a signe of many friends, but of that you will be better inform'd.

Here is a report, and in print too, of one of your Ex^cys seene lately at high masse, supposed generally to be your selfe, and many other things too tedious and unpleasant to insert.

I presume you will find by your letters the progress in Parliament and probability of a proceeding apart from France.

Sir Nic. sent your Ex^cy a song of a certaine senior that came in with the Dutchesse of Modena, which if it is miscarried I must take care to write it anew, though it reaches and toutches most of the ladys from Westminster to Wappin. I am with much obligation

Your Ex^cys most humble servant,

W. O[VERBURY].

Indorsed,
MR. OVERBURY.

No. 180.—FROM COLONEL ROGER WHITLEY, M.P.

My Lord, London, Jan. 30, 73(-4).

Your Ex^cy will have full information from others of all our transactions, soe that I have onely to acknowledge the honour of yours of the $\frac{20}{30}$ with your extracts of the $\frac{16}{26}$, which, as they lay great obligations upon me, give very much light and satisfaction to severall others to whom I communicate them in this conjuncture. But by our late proceedings I guesse the sceane may be now changed (and perhaps the stage too), and yet we may reape the fruits of your happy negotiations sooner and in another method then was expected.

Our rich marchant fleete (neare 300) with their convoy haveing now set sayle, confirmed the opinions that peace is not far off. It will be more welcome by reason of the generall aversion to our alleyes, &c. The French here are very busy and much unsatisfyed (I believe you will finde them soe at Cologne); they have some freinds amongst us.

This sad day hath been solemnly kept;[1] all shops shut and churches open. Dr. Cradock and Dr. Lloyd preached before the House of Commons, and with great applause.

The committee about my Lord Arlington's busenesse goes faintely on, the prosecutors not intending an impeachment, but to render his Lordship in the same condition with my Lord of Bucks (I believe in hope, thereby, to bring off his Grace rather then hurt his Lordshipp), and I am confident it will vanish of it selfe if they are not too much prest in pointe of evidence.

I am still of opinion that a little patience and good management will get the King money; the complexion of the House is much changed since his Majestyes last speech, and I hope it will proove a happy sessions. I humbly kisse your hands, and remayne,

My Lord,

Your Excellency's most humble and obedient servant,

Ro. Whitley.

Indorsed,
Coll. Whitley.

No. 181.—From Sir Gilbert Talbot, M.P.

Sir, Whitehall, Jan. 30, 167$\frac{3}{4}$.

I have with greate thankfulness received your Excellencyes letter and extract under the date of $\frac{26}{16}$, by which I plainely perceive that the States vary little in theyre proposalls to you from what they have lately rendered to his Majesty through the hands of the Spanish Embassadour. These are the same three heads with yours. The flag, the treaty of commerce in the East Indyes, and the business of Surenam. The first they stile the ceremony of the flag, and confine theyre respect to it in the British sea; they use termes of greate ambiguity in both the other, in soe much as you know

[1] The anniversary of the execution of Charles I.

not how to lay hold on anything for a sure foundation; and of the fishery they say nothing. The proposalls his Majesty communicated to both Houses, together with the States' letter which accompanyed them, upon the 24th, and desired theyre advice upon the whole matter. The Lords have since thanked the King in a body, and passed a vote, *That his Majesty upon consideration of the whole matter before them be by them humbly advised to proceed to a Treaty in order to a speedy Peace.* The Commons ordered theyres thus: *That upon consideration of his Majestyes gracious speech, for which they returne theyre humble thanks, and of the proposalls of the States Generall, his Majesty be humbly advised*—as before.[1]

The difference of the considerations of the whole matter and the speech and proposalls onely ariseth from this, that his Majesty, to the end that we might know the better how to direct an advice, gave leave to a small committee of both Houses to inspect the treaty of Breda and the French treaty, that they might judge of the infractions. Of this offer the Lords made use, and soe framed theyre vote upon consideration of the whole. The Commons, fearing least that enquiry might engage them to approve the war (which they intended to charge upon the ministers), and having approved it should be obliged to give money to maintaine it, would not look upon those treatyes, and soe built theyre vote upon the speech and proposalls onely; yet the Commons sending to the Lords yesterday for theyre concurrence in the last vote, and to goe in a body to the King, the Lords answered that they had thanked already; and I perceive we are like to have a conference to-morrow to adjust this matter, which in my opinion is impossible, and that both Houses must goe singly unless we will view the treatyes and alter our vote.

Many men of sanguine hopes promise to themselves a speedy Peace upon these addresses, and truly, when I consider the States

[1] "*as before*" means ending as the Lords' Address, "to proceed to a treaty in order to a speedy peace." This Address was agreed to by the Commons, January 27.

as merchants, and that they may be brought to bid more than they first offered, it is not impossible but that they intend it, and the Spanish Embassador assureth us that they shall doe it to the King's full satisfaction; and well they may, for one condition in theyre letter is that it must be a separate treaty exclusive to the French, which condition is snatched at by Lords and Commons, who generally dislike the French league, from whence you may collect that if a Peace ensue you shall not have the honour of concluding it; for it cannot be done where the French plenipotentiaryes are, and we persuade ourselves that the Spaniard hath powers to conclude all points with us. Yet, if I may be allowed to speak my fears, I cannot but suspect that all this fayre shew of a treaty is onely to feed all hopes to make the Parliament refuse to grant a new ayd (to which they have noe manner of propensity), and consequently to make us neglect all navall preparations, and not onely breed a jealousy of us in the French upon a separate treaty, but disgust the mediators, who are likewise layd aside in this clandestine treaty. And supposing this to be the case, consider what will be our condition; for we are not onely left to stand alone, abandoned by all our freinds and allyes, but the French likewise will be forced to disgorge all theyre late conquests, soe that the Hollander will obteine his full end, whatsoever becometh of us.

But it is told us that the States-Generall, as an inducement to us, have declared the Prince of Orange and his heyres perpetuall Stateholders. Be it soe; this may as well be intended for the ruine of the Prince as for his advantage. If they intend it really, it is an extraordinary expression of kindness; but may not this possibly be a designe of the Levestine party to lull him into a security, and afterward with more ease cutt off his single person, he leaving noe heyre to succeed? It is a supposall that I doe not willingly make, but from an inveterate enemy I will always suspect the worst.

The malicious Cornebury, Wheeler, Sir G. Gerard, and Sir Edward Jennings, have not yet bin able to find matter (much less proofe) whereon to build an impeachment against my Lord Arlington, although they turne every stone.

To-morrow the Duke of Buckingham is to answeare by his counsaile in the Lords' House to the petition preferred against him by the Earle of Shrewsbury's uncles and other relations. The address is not yet made for his removeall from the King, nor is it forgotten.

Honest Judge Millard [1] is dead, and Sir Lionell Jenkins being pressed to be tryed in his absence, the inhabitants have petitioned the House that it may be respited till his returne, because some of his most considerable witnesses are abroad with him.[2]

The Lords have passed four votes in order to a Bill: 1. That noe persons nearely related to the Crowne shall have liberty to breed theyre children in any religion but the Protestant. 2. That noe such person shall marry any but a Protestant unless by consent of Parliament. 3. That all Papists (as well Lords as others) shall immediately be disarmed. 4. That all English preists shall be banished the realme.

If you please to accept of such trumpery as this in returne to your excellent advertisements you may be pleased to continue the correspondence at your perill with

Your Ex^cyes most humble and most faythfull servant,

G. Talbot.

Tom Peak hath written to me for some Fr. books, which I will send if I may be told how it is to be done.

No. 182.—From Michael Wharton, M.P.[3]

Sir, Feb. 4, (73)-4.

I am perfectly assured that any thing that comes from me is but a misspending of your tyme, otherwise I should give way to my

[1] Elsewhere spelt Milward, M.P. for Stafford.

[2] This refers to a late election for Newark, where Sir Lionel Jenkins had been put up as a candidate, and there were two returns. Sir Paul Neal claimed the seat, and had appeared in the House on October 30, when Mr. Sacheverell took notice of his presence without leave, and he was obliged to withdraw.

[3] M.P. for Beverley.

inclination, and frequently so returne my humble thankes in acknowledging the honor and favor I receive from you.

Since the Parliament mett, they have hadd both things and persons in their prospect, and made this generall vote as a foundation to proceed upon. The House will in the first place proceed to have their grievances effectually redressed,—Protestant religion, libertys, and propertys effectually secured to suppresse popery, and to remoove all persons, councells, and councellors that are popishly affected and otherwise obnoxious or dangerous to the Government. The persons they have had discourse upon is the Duke of Loutherdale, and hath made an addresse to remoove him from all employments and from his Majesties presence and councells for ever, as being obnoxious and dangerous to the Government.

They have voted an addresse be presented to his Majestie to remoove the Duke of Buckingham from all employments that are held during his Majesties pleasure, and from his presence and counsells for ever.

They have had discourse concerneing the Lord Arlington, but the manage concerning him hath been such as 'twill not prove much danger to him ; it were too long to insert the particular points of manage, and my Lord Angers and others say they will write to you, soe that being you will have it from better hands, I make this only abstractive.

Both Houses have voted that upon his Majesties gratious speech they are of opinion that his Majestie be humbly advised to proceed in a treaty with the States Generall in order to a speedy peace.

Notwithstanding the vote concerning the Duke of Buckingham, it is a question whether the House will proceed to make an addresse concerning him. Numerous bodys sometymes, when heat is abated, reflects and alters the naturall consequence to what hath proceeded. Sir, I ought to begg your pardon more than once in keeping of you soe long, but only that I know you have both goodness of nature and generosity to oblige those that honor you

with overlooking their transgressions, and whose ambition is to be esteemed

Your affectionate and most humble servant,
M. Warton.

By $\frac{15}{25}$.

No. 183.—From Thomas Derham.

My Lord, London, February 6th, 1673(-4).

What your Excy has soe long stay'd to doe at Cologne is already in effect done here. A sudden calme of peace arrieving to the wonder of all such as are not polititians, a thing that though a blessing in appearance to us yet I cannot but repine at, since not wrought by your Excy's hand, which I'me sure would have putt us in a salve that now we want.

Sir William Temple is departeing instantly for Holland to confirme it, and in the meane time the Spanish Ambassador signs it here. Yesterday both the Houses made their address for peace, and for the Duke of Lauderdaule's banishment alsoe, and this afternoone the House of Commons onely for the Duke of Buckingham's removal, to both which last the King's answere was hee would considder on't, which proceeding of the Parliament makes me remember what one imprudently said on the occasion of their removeing soe many courtiers: that they did like angry gamesters teare the cards they had, and not consider that in every fresh pack they should take they would have as many in it.

My Lord's committee[1] sitts still to little purpose, not haveing yet got through the first article, and now haveing not hopes to ruine him they are very slow in meeteing, and when they doe 'tis onely to adjourne; but this I understand his Lordshipp does intend, beeing once

[1] The committee on the Earl of Arlington's impeachment.

clear'd, voluntarily to doe what they would force him to, to quit his present employment and retire, for which place 'tis impossible to think of any man but your Ex^cy; and hee that in his speech i' th' House on his Lordshipp's behalfe wish'd them (according to an example in the Senate at Rome) ere they did displace any man to considder first who was fitt for his place, was certainely acquainted with your Ex^cy.

The House at present are verrie bussie about two Tests, the one for Catholics for their speedier conviction, the other to try who are or are not honest men; but thankes bee to God that goes no further than their owne terrytoryes.

I cannot think of anything more of moment to send your Ex^cy, nor have I time, haveing to the last houre of the night delay'd a duty that by mee is preferable to all others, but for once will hope your Ex^cy will pardon,

My Lord, Your Ex^cy's unfeignedly devoted humble servant,

THO. DERHAM.

R $\frac{15}{25}$.

No. 184.—From Lord O'Brien.

My Lord, London, Feb. 6, 167$\frac{4}{5}$.

Lett mee first give you returne of thanks for all your kind assurances that you beleive mee and myne att your dispose; give mee leave to say wee are with a pure intention.

The Dukes of Buckingham and Lauderdaill are addres'd for to be removed as obnoxious and dangerous, and I fynd they will goe.

Peace I see resolved on, so I doubt not of your sudden returne. God send you safe to us!

Lord Duke of Norfolk is voted to be sent for home,[1] a successe best made for non-Conformists.

[1] The Duke was a lunatic. It was set about that he had become a Protestant,

The Sweedes resident heere severely complaines of our treating without them. I hope before your returne is made that things will grow better.

All the talk heere is that peace will be made. God harber it!

I am your humble servant,

O'Brien.

Indorsed,
Lord O'Brien.
By $\frac{15}{25}$.

No. 185.—From Sir Gilbert Talbot, M.P.

Sir, Whitehall, Feb. 6, '73.

This is a thankfull acknowledgm^{t} of your Ex^{cyes} favour to me of the 2^{d} of Feb. which as yet agreeth with what appeareth above board, in the offers of the States Generall by the mediation of the Spanish Embassador, but here hath bin lately a trumpet come from Holland with a letter to his Majesty which giveth hopes of a speedy suspension of armes and a consequent peace, which hopes we build upon Sir William Temple's suddain journy into Holland and the answere which the King gave yesterday to both Houses in the Banquetting house, who went jointly to thank and advise him to enter into treaty for a speedy peace: his answere was to this effect, that the plainest answere that he could give to theyre request was to comply with theyre advice, which he promis'd to doe, in hope that they would enable him to make good such a proceeding; your Ex^{cie} will easily conjecture the meaning.

The Commons presented theyre address concerning the Duke of

and that his brother, a Roman Catholic, Earl of Norwich and Earl Marshal, sent him away and kept him abroad on that account, and that lunacy was a pretext. This resolution of the Commons did not bring the Duke over. The Lords did not concur in this Address, and the matter dropped. The question of his detention abroad again arose in 1677, when Sir John Reresby testified in the House of Commons to his insanity. (Reresby's Memoirs, p. 190, ed. 1831.)

Lauderdale yesterday likewise, and to that his Majesty sayd he would consider of theyre desire therein.

We have likewise voted an address (without the Lords) for the removall of the Duke of Buckingham, but his Majesty hath not yet appointed us a time to wayte on him.

We are feirce upon Bills to secure religion and property; both were read this morning; the 1st had its second reading and is committed; it conteineth Test to discriminate papists and for theyre more easy conviction. The 2d aymeth cheifely against billetting of souldiers and raysing money any way upon the subject, which they declare to be high treason if done without Act of Parliament.

Sir Lionell Jenkins' tryall for his election is put off for six weekes longer; in the debate of that matter Mr. Marvin was pleased to say that he lately struggled for precedency[1] but now laboureth to be postponed.

This day the D. of B. was to be bayted in the Lords' House, but what hath passed there I have not time to enquire, we are soe wholely taken up with late sitting of the House and bandying afterward till ten at night in the committee of priviledges.

Yesterday I dined with Sir Joseph Sheldon, where Sir Francis Chaplin and I remembred you particularly. Our friend Sir John Robinson is upon some question for undue proceeding with young Muddiford, and with some apprehension of the severity of the House.

The malicious accusers whom I mentioned in my last stick still in theyre charge against Lord Arlington, but alleadge noe manner of proofe. To-morrow we are to goe upon more greivances; what they will prove you shall know when theyre bolts are shott.

I am in greate haste to assure you that I am

Your Excyes most obedient and faythfull servant,

G. Talbot.

By $\frac{15}{25}$.

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[1] This means that he had tried to hasten the trial of his election for Newark.

No. 186.—From Sir Robert Southwell.

My Lord, Spring Garden, 6 Feb. 73.

I was very proud of the favours of your Ex^cy which the last post brought me ; I was allmost out of countenance for wanting it soe long.

Yesterday the two Houses applyed to his Majesty for a speedy peace, which his Majesty promised, and the last night Sir W. Temple and Sir G. Sylvius were hastening away to Holland; but I think now Sir William will stay.

The House made alsoe the addresse yesterday against the D. of Lauderdale, and this day against the D. of Bucks (without going to my Lords), to which his Majesty's answer was the same, that he would consider it.

In the House of Lords this noble Duke has had a very gentle censure as to the matter of the Lady Shrewsbury, each being to give bonds not to converse againe. I heard a noble Lord sweare that he would come downe againe to the House of Commons.

To-morrow they goe on againe with greivances, and I believe will vote against the Army. They are making such bills to hedge in the property, liberty, and religion of the subject, that nothing is to be trusted to good nature for the future.

The House voted an addresse (but to take the Lords with them) for bringing home the Duke of Norfolke.

My Lord Arlington is in the perfect favour of his Majesty. His Lordship moved the King for the Baron de Vicque[1] to come over, which is assented too, and I now signify as much unto him. I am now in hopes to see your Ex^cy here speedily to play your owne game, which perhaps wants you.

I am for ever, my Lord,

Your Ex^cies most faithfull and most obedient servant,

Robert Southwell.

[1] Sir Henry de Vic, the King's resident at Brussels.

You owe the Baron much kindnesse, for his letters here are to your Lordshipp's service.

Indorsed,
SIR R. SOUTHWELL.
℞ $\frac{15}{25}$.

No. 187.—FROM JOHN RICHARDS.

My Lord, Whitehall, Feb. 9, 7¾.

This day's work will shew your Ex^cy how much his Majesty hath beene swayed by the advice of the Parliament in reference to the peace, it having beene this evening finisht with the Spanish Ambassador here.

Orders are likewise issued for stating the arreares of the new raised forces, in order to their speedy disbanding.

My Lord Arlington is but just soe well recovered of his goute as to walke the length of his chamber. His affaire before the committee moves likewise slowly, the examination of the first article not being yet over, but soe little can be made appeare to his Lordshipp's prejudice that the prosecution cooles sensibly. God send all well over!

I am ever entirely,
My Lord, your Ex^cies most faithfull humble servant,
JO. RICHARDS.

℞ 1 Mar.

No. 188.—FROM EDWARD CARLETON.

My Lord, London, Feb. 9th, 167¾.

I have beene attending at my Lord Arlington's all this evening to speake with him, but he hath been in councell with the King, Duke, Lord Keeper, and Duke of Ormond, and the Spanish Ambassador; all the company below staires say that the King hath just now sealed and signed to the peace with Holland. His Majestie declared this morneing in the Lords' House that he had concluded a

peace; my Lord Angier told me that it was a generall peace including the French, but that to my apprehension is very improbable; though his Majestie may be moderator, yet in such a scantling of tyme it is matter of too greate a bulke; what was of concerne to this kingdome was in a very short tyme assented to, but all things that are plaine and easy are soone compassed. I beseech God give a blessing to the event! I find more men unsatisfyed with the tearmes we purchase this peace than otherwise.

The Parliament on Satturday fell upon the grievances of this kingdome, and perticularly on the standing army, and voted an addresse to the King humbly to desire his Majestie to disband all the forces raised since January 1663. They likewise voted that the Duke of Norfolke be sent for out of Italy and carefully brought into England, and desired the Lords' concurrence, which to-morrow is expected,[1] and that all children of Popish parents be educated in the Protestant religion.

This day was condemned at the King's Bench barr three Frenchmen to be hang'd, drawne, and quarter'd for coyning, they haveing long practiced it, and severall coynes and stamps with which they wrought produced in court against them.

The Earle of Doncaster, the onely son of the Duke of Monmouth, dyed this morneing.

It is generally reported in towne that there is a stopp put to the liveryes, and that your Ex^cy^ is recalled home now the peace is concluded: if soe I doe not conceive that I can any way be serviceable to your Ex^cy^ upon your removall, but rather a trouble and expence in your jorney. I waite for your commands to come or stay, and shall pay my ready obedience to either as becometh,

My Lord,

Your Ex^cyes^ most obliged faithfull humble servant,

EDW. CARLETON.

Sir Wm. Temple was recalled upon the Spanish Ambassador's receiving these last propositions.

[1] The Lords did not concur

No. 189.—From Lord O'Brien, M.P.

My Lord, London, Feb. 10th, 1673(-4.)

Mr. Ball assures mee that he sends you the full account of all proceedings heere. However lett mee hint on [a] passadge that happened on Saterday; it was upon the debate for disbanding the Army. Sir Will. Buck.[1] (whoe seldome wants good ale) told us that he was upon a certaine time sent for to my Lord Treasurer Clifford's, and that so soone as he came to Wallingford House my Lord's page carried him into his beddchamber, and theere he heard my Lord discoursing very eagerly with some other person, upon which he asked the page whoe was with my Lord. He replyed, my Lord Arundell of Warder.[2] And this (said he) made him listen to what they discourst; that he heard many things, and among the rest this expression from the Treasurer, By God, my Lord, theere is no hopes; the King is obstinate, he will stop the gapp. Immediately upon this they came out, and, finding him there, Clifford commaunded him to declare what he had heard, or else swore he should

[1] Sir William Bucknell. This extraordinary speech is given somewhat differently in Anchitel Grey's report: "Gives an account how upon occasion, going to wait upon Lord Clifford (Treasurer), he was brought into an outward room by a page, and, being there, heard loud talking in the next room, Lord Clifford often saying his Majesty would never be brought to it; and some time after Lord Arundel of Wardour came out. Lord Clifford, seeing Bucknell, was much surprised, and, after many reviling words, as calling him 'dog' and the like, asked who brought him thither, and how he durst come there. He answered his page brought him. Some time after he met Lord Clifford at Tunbridge Wells by accident, and there my Lord proffered reconciliation and oblivion of what was passed." (Grey's Debates, ii. 397.) Sir William Bucknell's account is probably exaggerated.

[2] Lord Arundell of Wardour was a prominent Roman Catholic Peer. He was one of the very small party which met the King and the Duke of York on January 25, 1669, to consult about promoting the Roman Catholic religion in England, Arlington and Clifford being the two others. He was also one of the five Roman Catholic lords impeached with Viscount Stafford in 1678, on occasion of the Popish plot, the other three being the Earl of Powis and the Lords Petre and Bellasis.

not [go] out of the roome alive. And that at last he replyed, Well, my Lord, if you will compell me to speake, I heard so much as to confirme mee into the full assurance that, was itt not for his Majesty and his greatt goodness towards his people, he and his accomplices would subvert both property and religion; upon which the Treasurer call'd him villaine, &c., and so kickt and beate him downe staires. Accept in good part this story, which I would not have troubled your Lordship with was not Wensday next sett apart to make out farther greivances, and then I suppose wee shall heare second part to the same tune.

My wife has this day had judgment in the House of Lords on her behalfe for the Barony of Clifton. She gives you her service, and both of us heartily wish your speedy and happy returne.

I am, with all esteeme, my Lord,

Your unfeighned servaunte,

O'Brien.

℞ $\frac{1}{2}\frac{7}{7}$.

No. 190.—From John Richards.

My Lord, Whitehall, Feb^{y} 13th, '7$\frac{3}{4}$.

I am at once indebted to your Ex^{cy} for the repetition of your great favors to mee in yours of $\frac{\text{Jan. } 30}{\text{Feb. } 9}$, Feb. $\frac{3}{1\,3}$, and $\frac{6}{1\,6}$, for all which I returne your Ex^{cy} my most humble thanks.

This day both Houses waited on his Majesty to thank him for the peace, with which all here are infinitely pleased. I wish the ministers with whom you have had reason soe often to converse were soe too, that you might avoide those troublesome expostulations which wee feare you will otherwise have enough of upon this subject.

His Lorshipp's account of himselfe, both in reference to the Parliament and his goute, leaves mee nothing to adde upon either sub-

ject, but my prayers for his perfect deliverance from both, wherein I am sure your Ex^cy joines heartily with mee.

I am, with entire respect and devotion,

My Lord,

Your Ex^cies most humble servant,

JO: RICHARDS.

By $\frac{2}{2}^{0}$ March.

No. 191.—FROM SIR GILBERT TALBOT, M.P.

Whitehall, February 13, [167$\frac{3}{4}$].

By your Ex^cy's of the 11^th I perceive you are yet in the dark as to the late conclusion of peace betwixt England, Spaine, and Holland, whereof his Majesty gave notice to both Houses on Wednesday last, the 11^th. This hath bin privately struck up, by vertue of a full power given to the Spanish Embassador to conclude. Both Houses have this day bin with his Majesty in the Banquetting House to returne theyre thanks. The Commons pursue more grievances, and will not mention money till they have redressed all, and then we are told that they will contribute to the encreasing of his Majesty's navy in 3^d and 4^th rates. How your mediators will look upon this matter huddled up without theyre participation I knowe not. I should be troubled for your particular concerne in it, but that I heare you are to be sent on farther to the Court of Vienna.[1]

I wish you good success in whatsoever you undertake, and hope by that time you returne we shall be settled in a lasting peace, for parlaments run higher every day.

The Commons have two Bills in hand, purposely intended to secure them against a successor in case of the King's mortality. The first a Bill to make the judges stand *quamdiu se bene gesserint*, and not

[1] This did not happen.

to depend *durante bene placito*, which is terminable upon the death of a King: the other that noe money may be leavyed on the subject without Act of Parliament, but that it shall be high treason, and that noe tax shall be raised after the expiration of the Act, which cutteth off customes from the successor.

The prosecution against my Lord Arlington darkeneth, but is kept still in check. Our brother Aldermen, Sheldon, Vyner, and Chaplin, remembered you yesterday at my house. I am

Your most faithfull

G. T[ALBOT].

℞ $\frac{20}{2}$ March.

No. 192.—From Robert Yard.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 13 February, 1673.

Yesterday in the evening arrived here Mr Barré, and brought me the honor of your Excy's of the 16 instant. I cannot but very much wonder at Mr Floyd's backwardnesse to write your Excy or send your Excy the account you desired, especially since, besides the frequent letters he has received from your Excy, I have in your Excy's name pressed him with all the earnestnesse possible, and he still told me he had already done it and would againe more particularly. This answer I have received from him above 20 times, and always lookt upon him to have had more respect for your Excy and to have been more a man of businesse then to have thus neglected so material a point. However, I went this morneing againe to him; he seemed to be in great hast, and could not have time to say more then that your Excy drew money upon him faster then he was able to pay it. I hope your Excy will have received the last account I sent your Excy, by which your Excy will please to see that all the moneys in the three months' allowance ending in November is paid, but nothing is yet paid upon the last three months ending the 9. of this month, nor is any part of it as yet assigned. I

shall not faile to give your Ex^cy from time to time an account of what is paid or assigned.

Mr Burgesse is very civile and ready to assist me in any thing relateing to your Ex^cy's service. The moneys due to your Ex^cy as Clerk of the Councell comes to £337 ; as I take it the warrants lye ready, and if any body did make it their businesse they would be paid, and one reason that they were not paid already is the unkindness between Sir Robert Howard and Mr Floyd, of which I formerly told your Ex^cy. I have severall times spoke to Sir Robert Howard about it, though I have not any order from your Ex^cy to sollicite or receive any moneys from your Ex^cy.

Sir Peter Wyche was with me this day and told me that my Lady Katherine had lent his lady your bed in the Paper Office. I told him that if her Ladyship would please to command me to doe it that it should be taken downe for him, and in the mean time that I would acquaint your Ex^cy with it.

The conclusion of the Peace gives great satisfaction to the people, but at Westminster the dispositions are still very sharp.

Mr Ball giveing your Ex^cy the journalls of the proceedings of both Houses leaves not any thing for me to add of that kind.

Your Ex^cies friends wish your Ex^cy here this busy time to frustrate the advantage some endeavor to make of your absence, and to them I humbly presume to adde my humble prayer for your Ex^cies happy returne, and that it may be followed with all honor and prosperity, as becomes,

My Lord,

Your Ex^cies most faithfull obedient servant,

R. Yard.

℞ 2 March, 20 Feb.

No. 193.—From Sir Peter Wyche.

My good Lord, White-hall, Feb. $\frac{13}{23}$, $167\frac{3}{4}$.

The favour and kindnesse of your Excellencyes two last letters hath given mee this tryall of my selfe, that the possession of what I esteeme the greatest good in this world (your Lordship's sincere affection) will not make mee insolent. Farr from priding myselfe to have achievd my desires, I am seised with an awfull regard to bee had over all my words and actions, therby to preserve soe inestimable a treasure, and any occasion to serve your Excellency should atone for a very unfortunate life.

My Lord Arlington is newly upon his leggs after a severe fitt of the gout, and I hope it will not bee in the power of his enemyes to change his posture and lay him on his backe; the teesers of his committee are allmost come to a drye scent.

The King's great deference to his Parliament and his suddaine conclusion of a peace doth not yet seeme to worke kindly with some fowle stomacks who still are in quest of greivances, and would noe more make him glorious in peace then terrible in warre.

The reports of this weeke have sent your Excellency north and south from your present station; some make you goe Embassadour for Sweden, others for Vienna; both posts seeme important in this conjuncture.

I had so little countenance and satisfaction in my last employment[1] that I did *tantum non* resolve against any of the like nature; but were you not better provided any qualification would bee pleasant nere your Excellency, and I should witch to make use of my Lord Arlington's favours lately promised mee in any way your Lordship should bee pleas'd to chalke out.

My wife beggs of you to accept of her most humble service for

[1] With the Earl of Peterborough, when Ambassador, to find a wife for the Duke of York. See vol. i. pp. 27, 157, 164, 188.

her present answer to your Lordship's letter, shee being very busy in ordring her new lodgings, and in performing those requisite offices towards the persons who have lately obtain'd from the Queene an absolute promise that shee shall come in next dresser; now a little help on my side would make me presume to bee happy.

My Lord of Bath and Mr. Grenvile for your kind salutations have enjoyn'd mee to returne your Excellency their most hearty respects and the offer of their utmost services; in soe good company allow mee to grace those infinite regards I have for your person, which makes mee soe peremptorily,

My good Lord,

Your Excellencyes most devoted and humble servant,

PETER WYCHE.

Indorsed,
SIR P. WYCHE.
R. $\frac{20 \text{ Feb.}}{2 \text{ Mar.}}$

No. 194.—FROM JAMES HICKS.

May it please your Excellencie, Feb. 13, '73(-4).

Your's of the $\frac{9 \text{ Feb.}}{30 \text{ Jan.}}$ came to my hand the 10th, which, as at all tymes, now more welcome, especially adviseing your good health, which pretious jewill the Lord in mercie for ever to bless you with! Your lines soe fully manifest your sence and high affection to my Lord Arlington as the case then stood as noe freind or relation could more fully express. I wish as your honor may come in place that you may never want such servants or officers here and under you as may at all tymes follow and performe these acts of service and dutie to you as you have towards my Lord. But, blessed be God! the violence of that storme went over with great force, and noe wracke nor loss of anckor nor cable, and the shipp arrived and anckord safe in her former harber, and surely the strength of her soe tryed will not be a cause to lay her up, but yet fitt her for some future and honorable trim.

It is admired in publicke coffey houses and clubbs how his Honor, that knew all things, and as much as all the rest and more, should sayle safe thorough such a strong sea, when the two Dukes before, though they might know much yet much less than his Lordship, and the two became wrackt before the gale came to the height, and as a man may say neither of them pittied by any: but the scopp and substance of all I can say or write, from more sure and certaine hands you have all long since; yet that I may enjoy that happines to receive from you gives me that confidence to give you trouble of some lines now and then, from him that is old and almost uselesse, yet while in being desires that hand from you as to be owned by you in all just and honest things.

To tell you a Peace is concluded here betwixt his Majesty and the Dutch is noe more nor less than his Majesty declared to both Houses Wensday last, to the great and generall sattisfaction, I beleive, of every sole except such Roman Catholicks and others that wish better to the Sea of Rome and the French King's interest than they doe to the Protestant Church and his sacred Majesty. And though such snarle and barke here, and in Ireland, yet I hope God will never give them power nor strength to bitte or destroy the least of the little flock of which hee is the only holy and blessed Shepard.

It is said Tuesday last the Spaniard Ambassador's Secretary went for Holland with the Articles of Peace, signed on behalf of the King by the Lord Keeper, Lord Treasurer, Duke of Ormond, Duke of Monmouth, and both his Majesties Principall Secretaries; and on behalfe of the States Generall, Marquess Aresnou the Spanish Ambassador, soe that a speedy ratification is speedily expected, and your safe returne, which is most heartily wisht I dare say by all that love you, and I am most certaine by myselfe and sonn, which in all times is ready to manifest our selves to be

Your Ex^cies most humble and obedient servant,

JAMES HICKS.

℞ March 5 / Feb. 23.

No. 195.—From John Richards.

My Lord, Whitehall, Feby 23d, 7¾.

Though it bee extreme late I should hold my selfe inexcusable if I did not acknowledge the favors of your Excies of the $\frac{10}{20}$ and $\frac{13}{23}$, and give you this small account of the condition of my Lord's prosecution before the committee, that were it not for my Lord Cornebury and one or two other inveterate men, who though they can prove nothing will neverthelesse continue their crye and shew their teeth, the whole matter would insensibly fall to the ground, the greatest part that once appeared against his Lordshipp being growne weary with hearing stories without foundations of truth. I beg your Excies pardon that I adde noe more at present, having but just time to acknowledge my selfe in all truth,

My Lord,

Your Excys most humble and most obedient servant,

Jo. Richards.

℞ $\frac{5}{15}$ March.

No. 196.—From James Vernon.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 23rd February [167¾].

I have received the honour of your Excys of the 13th instant with one enclosed from the Bishop of Strasbourg to his Grace,[1] letting him understand that he would have sent him another horse of the same colour had he not been obliged to leave Cologne; to which his Grace returns his thankes, and desires you to give your selfe the trouble of it, and commands me to give you his particular thankes for your kindness to him which he finds in your obliging care of his

[1] The Duke of Monmouth.

concernes and your good wishes towards his person, which he declares himself allways ready to acknowledge.

I hoped ere this time to have given your Ex^cy an account of his Grace's being made Master of the Horse, but there have been difficulties by reason of the strange pattent the Duke of Bucks had, which we hope will not long oppose his Grace's advancement.

The person that is in the Tower upon suspicion of an ill designe against his Grace and the Duke of Ormond, hath been formally examined, and confronted with the person to whom he discovered himself at Paris, and who is the only wittness, to which end he came over. He denyes ever to have had any discourses with him about poyson or any other thing tending to the destruction of any one; but his answers are not very positive nor coherent; so that he still continues in the Tower, and all endeavour will be used to learne from him what his designe was, and who sett him on worke.

I am,

My Lord,

Your Excellencyes most faithfull and

most obedient servant,

J. Vernon.

By $\frac{5}{15}$ March.

No. 197.—From Francis Lord Aungier.

My deare Lord, London, Feb. 24th, 1673(-4).

Yesterday I had the honour of your Lordship's of the 23^d inst. which I am now at leisure enough to answere, for this day his Majestie was pleased to prorogue the Parliament to the 10th of Novembr, so that this Sessions has ended without the perfection of any one Bill, or of effecting any other thing for the good of the nation then that Peace which has beene hudled up in hast. The surprise, I aasure you, was very greate and unexpected to most.

For my parte, I have had his Majesties patience in admiration, for we acted without giveing him the least prospect of a supply, and yett expected greate indulgences and condescentions from him.

What will be the successe of these extraordinary remedyes God knowes, but I am sure at present men's faces looke cloudy and sad. That which troubles me much is that I cannot now hope for the honour of seeing your Lordship before my returne into Ireland, where I resolve to lead a country life and please myself with innocent planting, in which I shall at present have some divertisement, and those after me profitt.

Had the Parliament sate longer I am confident the Committee who were to consider of the Articles against my Lord Arlington would have pronounced him innocent, to which they had a greate inclination last night, but Sir Robert Carres modesty cooled it, for when it was moved and so well seconded that there was but very little opposition, Sir Robert cryed Adjourne; so they breake up and adjourned till Fryday.

I am, my deare Lord,
Your Lord^{ps} most humble and faithfull servant,
FRAN. AUNGIER.

Indorsed,
LORD ANGIER.

Rec^{d} Cologne, $\frac{15}{25}$ March.

No. 198.—FROM JOHN RICHARDS.

My Lord, Whitehall, Feb^{y}. 27th, 167$\frac{3}{4}$.

Since my lord Arlington's last of the 23rd, your Ex^{cies} of the $\frac{17}{27}$ is come to his Lordshipp's hands, to which not having leisure to make answeare by this ordinary, his Lordship begs your Ex^{cies} excuse, commanding mee to acquaint you with the news of the Proro-

gation of the Parliament till the 10th of Novr. next. This was done on the 24th, to the great surprise of both Houses and the whole towne, and without passing soe much as one Bill. My Lord Arlington's enemies will have it to bee his advice, their malice still continuing as great as ever, though they were not able to hurt him, and though they saw even by what past at the committee the night before the Prorogation, that if it had beene then pressed he had beene pronounced innocent.

Sir Gabriel Silvius is not yet returned from the Hague with the ratification of the Peace, but expected in a day or two.

I may not end this without an humble acknowledgment of your Excies favour to mee by one likewise of the $\frac{17}{27}$, and repeating that respect and sense wherewith I am,

My Lord, your Excies most humble servant,

Jo: Richards.

By $\frac{25}{25}$ March.

No. 199.—From Sir Gilbert Talbot, M.P.

Sir, Whitehall, Feb. 28, 167$\frac{3}{4}$.

This week's post brought me the greate satisfaction of your Excellencyes favours of the 13th and 17th of this month, for which I returne my most humble thanks.

After that both Houses of Parliament had pressed fiercely and avowedly against the Duke of Y[orke] by framing many bills for the security of Lords and Commons against a successor to the Crowne that might prove to be of a different religion from the now established, (which apprehension they in plaine termes expressed in both Houses,) and that his Majesty had clearly discovered a combination betwixt the discontented and turbulent Commons in the south-east corner of our house and some hottspurrs in the Upper

(the Earle of Shaftesbury, the Lord Hallif[ax],[1] Earle of Salisbury, and Earle of Clare being the most forward), and weighing the discontents and complaints of the Parliament of Scotland at the same instant, and the Republican drifts of the Citty of London (to bring the Governement to a Common Councill), he thought it high time to look about him, and on the 24th called us up to the Lords' House and prorogued the Parliament to the 10th of Novr next, whereby he hath cutt off the designe of all the factious bills that were in the forge, and prevented many new complaints which were begun to be opened to us by our friend my Lord O'Brian against the contract for and management of the revenue of Ireland by my Lord Ranelaugh, there being not all this while one word spoken tending toward a supply to his Majesty for the strengthening of his Majesty's fleete, to keep some proportion with the power of our neighbours at sea.

This suddaine prorogation caused many of the guilty Commons (Lord St.John, Sir Thomas Lee, Sir Robert Thomas, Sir N. Cary,[2] Sir Eliab Harvy, Sacheverell, and many others,) who had bespoken a large dinner for that day at the Swan Tavern in King Streete, to leave their provisions to Mr. Dod and his wife, and to haste away (some by coach, some by water,) into the citty, suspecting themselves (I verily conceive without ground) unsecure in the suburbs.

His Majesty used noe preamble to the prorogation, but an account of the ratification of the Peace, although I could have wished that he had ratled us up for our mis-spent time, in ravelling too far into the governement and plucking at all the feathers of his prerogative, for this possibly might have taught us more moderation at our next meeting (if any such can be hoped for). I am afrayd if we doe

[1] This reference to Halifax and another at the end of the letter are very interesting as showing the complete union of Halifax at this time with Shaftesbury, his uncle by marriage, to whom towards the end of Charles II.'s reign he was bitterly opposed. They quarrelled in 1679, after having been both appointed, Shaftesbury as President, to the new Privy Council of that year.

[2] Sir Nicholas Carew.

meete againe this suddaine recess will not make for my Lord of Arlington's advantage; for, beside that I am most confident we should in very few dayes have cleared him, the prosecutors will revive theyre charge hereafter and bring him upon the stage anew, and possibly impute the prorogation to his advice, although it may nott rationally be conjectured that it came from a more powerfull hand.

The ratification of the Peace is dayly expected from Holland, and we say that the Prince of Orange will be speedily here ; and many talk of a marriage with our Princess.

The Citty is exceedingly pestered with the small pox and measells ; scarce any children free ; and the bills of mortality increase.

The Duke of Buckingham had 5 or 600*l.* worth of plate stolen from the Cock-pitt on Tuesday night.

I shall present your kind respects to Sir John Talbot and his Lady when I see them, and dare adventure to returne theyre thanks, although without commission. Theyre children are all in nurses' hands for these diseases in fashion.

I am Sir, your Excellencyes
Most obedient and most faythfull servant,
G. T[ALBOT].

Although the ratification be not come, Sir Gabriel Silvius hath written that all the Provinces have signed it ; and I heard his Majesty this night say that it shall be proclaimed here to-morrow, and he hath bespoken Mad^m^ Killigrue to be drunk, as all her countrymen were, when the news arrived first at the Hague. Here is a whisper that the Lord Carlisle, the Lord Shaftesbury, the Lord Holles, and the Lord Halifax should be put from the Councill Board.

℞ Cologne, $\frac{15}{25}$ March.

APPENDIX.

THE PAPER OFFICE, OCTOBER, 1674.

APPENDIX.

REPORT OF H. BALL,

Chief Clerk(?) to Sir Joseph Williamson, Keeper of the Office of His Majesty's Papers and Records, on "the State of your Honor's Paper Office." 23 Oct. 1674.[1]

THE STATE OF YOUR HONOR'S PAPER OFFICE.

The present Correspondents.[2]

Forreigne on Monday.	Sir W^m^ Godolphin.
Mr. Linch.	Mr. Perwick.
Mr. Parry und^r^ Mr. Pawlyes cover.	Sir Wm. Lockhart.
	Mr. Bulstrode.

[1] Williamson was appointed Keeper 31st Dec. 1661, "on surrender of Thomas Raymond, esq. with the usual annual fee of 160*l.* paid quarterly." (S. P. O. Doc. vol. i. No. 127.)

[2] Williamson, being already secretary of Sir Edward Nicholas, Secretary of State, was appointed Keeper of the Paper Office, December 31, 1661. In 1666 Williamson undertook the superintendence of the London Gazette, which was registered as the property of Thomas Newcombe, also registered proprietor of the Oxford Gazette, which had been begun the year before at Oxford, and had reached the No. 24 when the first number of the London Gazette appeared. (Chalmers's Life of Ruddiman, p. 422.) News-letters in manuscript were also systematically circulated to subscribers and correspondents, whose letters furnished the materials for the Gazette and the news-letters. This report explains in detail how the letters were made, and gives a list of the parties to whom they were sent, mentioning the sums annually subscribed by those who paid. Mr. Ball, who makes the report, is one of Williamson's most frequent and regular correspondents, and the whole of the Paper Office arrangements were done by clerks of the Secretary of State's office under Williamson's superintendence. For some further details see Mrs. Everett Green's Preface to the volume of Calendars of State Papers of the reign of Charles II. 1665-6.

Mr. Pargiter.
Mr. Ball for Mr. Skinner.
Mr. Davis.
Mr. Legatt.
Mr. Hill.
Mr. Hayles.
Mr. Foppins.
Lord Allington.

Inland on Tuesdayes.

Once a weeke.
Sir Philip Musgrave.
Mrs. Margerett Williamson.
Coll: Shar. Talbott . . 2 0 0
Mr. Fleming.
Lord Townesend . . . 5 0 0
Sir Wm. Hartop.
Bishop of Carlisle . . 5 0 0
Sir R[d] Thorold.
Lord Leigh 5 0 0
Once a weeke.
Mayor of Lescard.
Mr. Welsh at Rye.
Twice a weeke.
Sir Edward Mancell . . 5 0 0
Earl of Essex.
Mr. Leigh of Dublin.
Sir Rich. Sandford . . 5 0 0
Sir Jo. Cradocke . . . 4 0 0
Mr. Hobby 4 0 0
Sir Gilbert Talbott.
Duke of Ormond under cover to Mr. Gascoyne.
Archbishop of Dublin
Mr. Morgan of Machen . 5 0 0
Mr. Mathewes . . . 4 0 0
Sir Rich. Wynne . . . 4 0 0
Mr. Palfryman at Boston.
Mr. Southwell, father to Sir Robt.
Every post.
Bath, E(arl?).
Lord Colerain . . . 5 0 0
Sir Geo. Fletcher . . 4 0 0
L[d] Mayor of Yorke . . 5 0 0
Deane of Carlisle . . 5 0 0
Mr. Short of Oxford . . 6 0 0
Sir Francis Bowes of Stretlam 4 0 0
Lord Scudamore.
Col. Standish . . . 5 0 0
Mr. Sylas Taylor. Every post.
Mr. Jennings.
Mr. Hiches friend . . 5 0 0
Mr. Scrivener . . . 2 0 0
Deane of Durham . . 4 0 0
Mr. Bowman of Newcastle . 5 0 0
Dr. Basire 5 0 0
Mr. Dickson.
Sir Wm. Dalston . . . 5 0 0
Carlisle, E(arl).
Baron of Kinderton . . 5 0 0
Mr. Cole of Bristol.
Mr. Chetwind . . . 5 0 0
Mr. Levison 2 0 0
Lord Bulkley . . . 4 0 0
Mayor of Newcastle . . 5 0 0
Mr. Neill, son to Sir Paul.
Lady Carr.
Mr. Walmesley . . . 5 0 0
Mr. Hope 2 0 0
Lord Brooke . . . 5 0 0
Sir Thos. Peyton . . . 5 0 0
Major Darrell.

On Thursdayes.

Sir Andrew Hackett. Once a weeke.
Mr. Gleadow of Hull.
Mr. Lodge.
Mr. Watts.
Mr. Orchard at Poole.
Dr. Edisbury . . . 5 0 0
Sir Metcalfe Robinson . 5 0 0
Mr. Jordain of Gloucester.
Dr. Vyner's freind.
Mr. Henry Sidney.
Bath, E(arl). Every post.
Lord Colerain.

Sir George Fletcher.
Mayor of York.
Dean of Carlisle.
Mrs. Short.
Sir Francis Bowes.
Lord Scudamore.
Coll. Standish.
Mr. Sylas Taylor.
Mr. Jennings.
Mr. Scrivener.
Dean of Durham.
Mr. Bowman.
Dr. Basire.
Mr. Hawtrey.
Baron of Kinderton.
Carlisle, E(arl).
Sir Wm. Dalston.
Mr. Dickson.
Mr. Cole.
Mr. Chetwind.
Mrs. Lerrison.
Lord Bulkley.
Mayor of Newcastle.
Mr. Neill.
Carr, Lady.
Mr. Walmesley.
Mr. Hope.
Sir Tho: Peyton.
Mr. Berwick, Lord Allington, Sir William Lockhart, } at Paris.

On Frydaye.

Sir David
Mr. Foppins.
Mr. Bulstrode.
Mr. Sanderson.
Mr. Whiting.
Sir Wm. Curtius.
Mr. Allestry.
Mr. Tucker.
Mr. Meredith, Lord Ambr Temple's secretary.

Satturday.

Mr. Rabbett, Mr. Aizleby, Mr. Hodgskin, Mr. Burrowes, Mr. Wickens, Mayor of Helston, Mayor of Thetford. Mr. Bastincke, Mr. Holden, Mr. Isaacson, Mr. Anderton, Mr. Mann, Mr. Bodham, Mr. Hart, Mr. Bower, Mr. Potts, Mr. Lanyan, Mr. Thorold, Mr. Ackland, Mr. Salisbury, Mr. Moore, } These all at the ports. — Once a weeke.
Mr. Bellot.
Sir John Newton.
Sir Francis Rhodes . . 5 0 0
Mr. Tildesley.
Lord Widdrington . . 5 0 0
Coll. Sandys.
Sir Edward Mancell. — Twice a weeke.
E. of Essex.
Mr. Leigh.
Mr. Mathewes.
Sir Rich. Sandford.
Sir Jo: Cradocke.
Mr. Hobby.
Sir Gilbert Talbott.
D. of Ormond.
Archbp. of Dublin.
Mr. Morgan.
Mr. Palfryman.
Mr. Southwell.
Bath, E(arl). — Every post.
Lord Coleraine.

	Sir George Fletcher.	Carlisle, E(arl).
	Lord Mayor of Yorke.	Sir William Dalston.
	Dean of Carlisle.	Mr. Dickson.
	Mrs. Short.	Mr. Cole.
	Sir Francis Bowes.	Mr. Chetwind.
	Lord Scudamore.	Mr. Levison.
	Coll. Standish.	Lord Bulkley.
	Mr. Taylor.	Mayor of Newcastle.
	Mrs. Jennings.	Mr. Neile.
	Mrs. Scrivener.	Lady Carr.
	Deane of Durham.	Mr. Walmesley.
	Mr. Bowman.	Mr. Hope.
Every post.	Dr. Basire.	Lord Brooke.
	Mr. Hawtrey.	Sir Tho: Peyton.
	Baron of Kinderton.	Major Darrell.

The 4 clerkes that were in the office (besides myselfe) before Mr. Charles, my Lady Portesmouth's gent. came into it, were Mr. Lawson, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Delamain, and Jo. Keeve, amongst which the above-recited letters were most of them divided (according to the fastness of their writing, which was equall all but Mr. Lawson, who as yett cannot doe as fast as the other), which being alwayes too much for them by reason of the uncertainty of the posts coming in I alwayes helped them to doe a share or as many as I could, and had time to spare from the collecting the coppy and lookeing after the business, which by your Honor's permission I ordered after this manner: two of the young men went each Monday, Wednesday, and Fryday to the Rolls, the other two remaining in the office to doe the business and attend the extracts of the forreign pacquett, three or four coppyes of which wee alwayes made. On Tuesdayes, Thursdayes, and Satturdayes wee all attended in the office to doe the letters, which were so many that if some part of them were not prepaired the preceding night we could not compass them. The number of the letters that each wrote was, on Tuesday, 16 letters, viz. 4 long letters (which are those that contain the whole week's col(lection?) and 12 short (which is 2 dayes newes only); on Thursday, 13 letters, 3 long and 10 short; and on Satturday 7 long, 4 of 4 dayes newes, and 8 short; but now by Mr. Charles not being able to write above 4 letters a day the business will lye much heavyer upon us all.

The whole profitt or income of the lettres for last yeare (I mean from Michaelmas to Michaelmas last) amounted to just 174*l.*, out of which the 4 young men had 120*l.*, the rest I kept for my paines and maintenance, and to discharge these following disbursements:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For candles, candlestickes, snuffers, and such things	5	0	0
To the woman that cleans the roome . . .	2	12	0
For glaceing the windowes, mending table, stooles, chimney, and such little things . . .	2	0	0

What wee can expect for this next yeare may be neare the same sume, but the uncertainty of the payments does often lessen it, for of those that are your Honor's particular freinds, or at the ports, wee doe not expect or receive a farthing, nor doe wee demand anything of the other, but take what they think fitt, which is sometimes not heeded, and a yeare paid when there is two due, the others pay only something when they returne to towne, and others not, or send it by theire servants, who never give it us, but its hoped this yeare will not be much less than the last.

Besides this I entered each night all and only your Honor's above-named correspondents in a list which I signed and sent with the pacquetts to Mr. Hickes, and entered the same in a booke to remain for our justification in the office, and each night entered the coll(ection) of that day in the journall booke, as your Honor may also see; and I am sure, by compareing the former bookes with those since I had the honor to looke after it, it will appeare wee have not spaired our paines in writing and makeing the letters long and farr longer then they were before.

If your Honor please to lett me know your commands none shall more readily and faithfully obey them than him that is ever,

May it please your Honor,

Your Honor's most obedient

and humble servant,

H. Ball.

INDEX.

Abbott, Mr. 67
Address to Charles II. concerning stopping the marriage of the Duke of York, ii. 56, and *note*
Albemarle, Duke of, 87, 99, 101, 117, 119, 122
Allen, Sir Thomas, 149
Alresford and Alton, 150
Anglesey, Earl of, 27, 3, 41, 46; ii. 59
Anjou, Marquis of, ii. 4
Aram, Thomas, 67, 156, 184; ii. 45
Aresnou, Marquis, ii, 152
Arlington, Earl of, 6, 15, 22, 23, 30, 32, 41, 54, 58, 65, 73, 77, 79, 81, 84, 88, 93, 96, 112, 115, 118, 124, 128, 138, 149, 155, 159, 165, 176, 188; ii. 10, 17, 24, 28, 62, 81, 87, 92, 108, 116, 121 and *note*, 130, 137, 141, 145, 150, 156, 158
Armourer, Sir Nicholas, equerry to Charles II. ii. 23, 27, 117
Armstrong, Sir Thomas, 136
Arran, Earl of, 169, 192; ii. 23
Arundell, Lord, 145 and *note;* ii. 24
Ashburnham, Mr. 53
Ashmoyle, Mr. 54
Atkins, Sir Jonathan, 95, 152; ii. 3
Aungier, Lord, ii. 110 and *note*, 127, 137, 144, 154
Aylesbury, Earl of, 54

Baas, M. 95
Baker, Capt. 178
Ball, ii. 149; report of, on state of Paper Office, with list of correspondents, ii. 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166
Baron, Hartgill, 17 and *note*
Barré, Mr. 141, 157, 164; ii. 19, 102
Bartie, Mr. 189
Bartue, Mr. 120
Bath, Earl of, 27, 135
Baxter, Richard, 28
Beach, the quaker, 26
Bedford, Earl of, 54
Bellasys, Lady, 131 and *note;* ii. 27, 145
Bendall, Capt. 178
Bendish, Sir Thomas, ii. 47
Benet, Charles, 22
Bennet, Sir John, 159 and *note*
Benson, Mr. 44, 49, 62
Berkeley, of Stratton, John Lord, Lord Lieut. of Ireland, 38, 39 and *note*, 43, 46, 149
Berry, Sir Thomas, 22
Bertie, Capt. Charles, 104 and *note*, 111, 127, 146
Beuerning, M. 176
Bishe, Sir Edward, 27, 47
Blackwell, Alderman, 128
Blessington, Viscount, 156
Blomer, Mr. 131
Blood, Thomas, 14 and *note;* ii. 120
Bostock, Vincent, 98
Boynton, Jenings, Kirk, Middleton, the Misses, maids of honour, ii. 27
Brereton, Lord, 98
Bridgewater, Earl of, 22, 108 and *note*, 149
Bridgman, W. 11 and *note*, 30, 96, 117, 144, 166, 174, 176, 189; ii. 11, 47, 79, 112
Bristol, Earl of, 40
Brown, hung for stealing an heiress, 40, 47, 80, Lady, 126
Brouncker, Henry, 29, 53, 88
Buckhurst, Lord, 87 and *note*
Buckingham, Duke of, 4, 7, 12, 15, 21, 24, 28, 37, 38, 42, 43, 46, 58, 62, 63, 67, 75, 78, 79, 81, 86, 91, 93, 99, 102, 109, 117, 121, 142; ii. 24, 29, 35, 44, 56, 62, 92, 105, 112, 117, 126, 133, 141, 154, 158
Buckly, Capt. ii. 71

Bucknall, Sir William, 26; ii. 145 and *note*
Bulkley, Capt. 87
Bulstrode, Henry, 29, 100 ; ii. 33
Butler, Dr. 15 ; Lady, 104 ; ii. 110 ; Lord, 169 ; Capt. 177
Byas, 145 and *note*

Capel, Sir Henry, ii. 121
Carew, Sir Thomas, 54 ; Sir Nicholas, ii. 157
Carlisle, Earl of, 41, 46, 54, 73, 78, 101, 131 ; ii. 158
Carlos, Don, ii. 35
Carlton, Mr. 175 ; Edward, ii. 143
Carr, Sir Robert, 2, 4, 16, 31, 32, 51, 90, 92, 96, 109, 112, 141, 147, 149, 159, 164, 173, 183; ii. 5, 28, 52, 58, 102, 115, 155
Carteret, Sir George, 51, 56, 57, 59 and *note*, 149
Carwell (Quéronaille) Madlle. 109
Castletown, Viscount, ii. 27 and *note*
Cave, Mrs. 126
Chandos, Lord, 192
Chaplin, Sir Francis, ii. 17, 68, 141, 148
Charles, Mr. ii. 164
Charlton, Sir Job, ii. 44 ; Thomas, 54
Chichley, Sir Thomas, 45 and *note*, 102, 149; Vice-Admiral Sir John, ii. 8, 13
Chiffinch, William, ii. 35 and *note*
Cholmeley, 22, 149
Churchill, Mr. ii. 88
Cicell, Percy, Cornwallis and Carr, the several pretensions of, 63
Clare, Earl of, ii. 157
Clarges, Sir Thomas, ii. 54, 62
Clarke, Peregrine, 54
Clayton, Sir Robert, 114
Clements, Capt. 121, 125
Cletcher, a Swede, 73
Cleveland, Duchess of, 21 *note*, 40 *note*, 109 and *note*, 130, 137 ; ii. 62
Clifford, Lord, 2, 6, 8, 12, 24, 29, 34, 41, 48, 50, 57, 64, 107, 112, 128, 142, 167, 187 ; ii. 29, 36, 40 and *note*, 41, 49, 56, 145 and *note*
Coke, Sir Robert, 130
Colebrand, Dr. ii. 3
Coleman, Capt. ii. 2
Colleton, Sir Peter, 95
Colt, Mr. 20, 23
Conway, Lord, ii. 70 and *note*, 90 and *note*, 91
Cooke, Mr. 95
Cooling, Richard, 22, 100 and *note*
Cope, Sir Ant. ii. 71
Cornbury, Lord, ii. 67, 127, 135, 153
Cornwallis, Lord, 136 and *note*, 150 and *note*
Coventry, Henry, Secretary of State, 9, 77, 99, 102 and *note*, 108, 121, 126, 134, 138, 149 ; ii. 24, 33, 45, 54, 65, 69 and *note*, 92, 131
Cradock, Dr, ii. 133
Cranefeild, Mr. 2
Craven, Earl of, 149
Créqui, Duke of, ii. 4, 15 and *note*
Crewe, Dr. Bishop of Oxford, ii. 80
Culliford, Mr. 123

De la Dale, Mr. 15
Danby, Earl of, Lord Treasurer, 79
Danvers, John, 63
Dawney, Sir John, ii. 39
Deane, Robert, 69
Deerham, Mr. 123
Delamain, Mr. 164
Derby, Earl of, 29 and *note*, 99, 111; ii. 110, 111 and *note*, 125
Derham, Thomas, ii. 63, 138
Dering, Sir Edward, 29, 34 and *note*
Dixon, Mr. 159
Dolben, Sir William, Judge of King's Bench, 31
Doncaster, Earl of, 40; ii. 144
Dorchester, Marquess of, 54
Doughty, a highwayman, 3
Downs, Mr. 117
Drauke, J. ii. 110
Drummond, Gen. ii. 98
Dugdale, William, 23 and *note*
Dunblain, Lord, 56, 77 ; *see* Osborne
Duras, Lord, ii. 373
Dynt, Hasswell, 22

Edwards, Mrs. 178
Ellis, Mr. 32, 49, 71, 76, 85, 179 ; ii. 123
Elphinston, Lord, ii. 98
Enfield Chase. ii. 24 and *note*
Essex, Earl of, Lord Lieut. of Ireland, 24 and *note;* ii. 87, 121
d'Estrées, Count, 48, 65, 84, 175, 186; ii. 1, 16, 43

Eustace, Sir Maurice, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, ii. 27
Euston, Earl of, 22 and *note*, 54, 136; ii. 63 and *note*
Everard, Mr. 132

Fairfax, Thomas, 35; ii. 23, 64, 78, 85, 109, 111 and *note*, 125
Falmouth, Countess of, 54, 73, 89
Fillingham, Mr. 15, 23
Finch, Sir Heneage, ii. 66, 70, 77, 102
Fisher, Capt. 178
FitzCharles, Charles, 79
Fitzgerald, Major, 21, 24, 37
Fleming, Mr. 89
Floyd, Mr. 128, 138, 161, 166; ii. 14, 57, 73, 79
Fonseca, Don Francisco, Spanish Consul, 81, 111, 127, 136, 140; ii. 75
Forbes, James, ii. 111
Forth, John, 26
Fox, a highwayman, 3; Sir Stephen, 23, 40
Francis, R. 124, 132
Francklyn, Sir John, ii. 39 and *note*
Freeman, Justice, 86
Frenchmen, hanged, &c. for coining, ii. 144
Froude, Sir Philip, 117
Fryer, Mr. 40

Garraway, Mr. ii. 67
Gascoigne, Sir Bernard, 12 and *note*
Gazette d'Almagne, ii. 5
Geffery, Sir Robert, ii. *note* 18
General test to distinguish between Protestants and Papists, ii. 56 and *note*
Gerard, Sir Gilbert, ii. 111, 115, 125, 135
Godfrey, Mr. 64, 66; Capt. 78; Mr. 82
Godolphin, Sir John, 28; Sir William, 71, 96, 142; ii. 42, 47, 99; Sydney, ii. 4 and *note*
Goffe, father, 117
Gold, Mr. 4
Goldsborough, Mr. 96, 156
Goodlad, Capt. 178
Goodricke, Sir Francis, 184
Grandison, Lord, 21 and *note*, 40, 130, 136
Green, Mrs. Everett, ii. 161
Griffith, Sir John, 117
Guy, Capt. 162
Guyland, a Moorish Prince, 33
Gwynne, Nell, 109, 184; ii. 35

Haddocke, Capt. 136
Hale, Lord Chief Justice, 52; Sir Matthew, ii. 67
Halifax, Lord, 109 and *note*; ii. 157 and *note*, 158
Hallesey, John, 54
Hamilton, James, 17, 23, 26, 28; Colonel 62; Duke of, ii. 85, 93, 98, 100 and *note*
Hamond, Francis, 28
Hanson, Sir Robert, 31; ii. 56
Harbord, William, 22; ii. 54, 70
Harman, Sir John, 178, 186, 193; ii. 9, 42, 49, and *note*
Harper, Sir John; ii, 98
Harvy, Sir Eliab, ii. 157
Hatton, Lord, ii. 104 and *note*
Hawley, Francis Lord, 103 and *note*, 126
Hemming, Mr. ii. 121
Herbert of Cherbery, 192
Herne, Sir Nathaniel, ii. 18 and *note*
Hewitt, Sir George, 67, 87 and *note*, 94, 100
Hicks, James, 113
Higgons, Sir Thomas, 7 and *note*
Hobbs, Capt. 177
Holles, or Hollis, Lord, 88; ii. 158
Holmes, Sir Robert, 54, 63 and *note*, 176, 182, 187; Sir John, 164; ii. 8, 13
Hooker, Sir William, 69, 83, 114; ii. 47
Howard, Colonel Thomas, 12; Capt. 16, 17, 170; Sir Robert, 49 and *note*, 50, 67, 104 and *note*, 106, 111, 120, 127, 138; ii. 52 and *note*, 74, 79, 149; James, 149, 156; Hon. William, ii. 31 and *note*, 37; Henry, ii. 80, 94; Lord, ii. 131
Howe, Sir Scroop, ii. 114 and *note*
Howell, Sir John, Recorder of London, 31
Humerston, Matthew, Usher of the Custom House, 54
Humphreys, Pelham, 157

Innspruck, Princess of, 12

Jenkins, Sir Lionel, 32, 83; ii. 71, 136 and *note*, 141
Jennings, Sir Edward, ii. 135
Jermyn, Henry, 22, 41
Jones, Sir Henry, 67; Roger, ii. 90

Keeve, Jo. ii. 164
Kelly, Mr. ii. 164

Kempthorne, Sir John, ii. 9, 13
Kenoule, Earl of, 40
Kilmurry, Lady, 173
Kincardine, Earl of, ii. 104
King, Sir William, 28
King's Evil, the, ii. 104

Lamplough, Dr. 98
Lauderdale, Duke of, 79, 84, 88, 95, 103, 107, 118, 130, 141, 187; ii. 21, 29, 35, 46, 59, 62, 70, 82, 90, 114, 125, 137
Lawley, Sir Francis, 83 and *note*
Lawrance, Sir John, 114
Lawson, Mr. ii. 164
Lee, Mr. 73; Sir Thomas, ii. 157
Leech, Sir Simon, 51
Legat, Mr. 9
Legge, Capt. George, 54
Leigh, Mr. of the Heralds' Office, 26
Le Neve, Capt. 168, 177
Lennox, Charles, ii. 35
Lestrange, Mr. 41
Lethieullier, John, ii. 18 and *note*
Leyenberg, M. 97
Linsey, Mr. 82, 113
Littleton, Sir Charles, 36, 163; Capt. Ferdinand, 67; Sir Thomas, ii. 54, 67, 91 and *note*
Lloyd, Philip, 15, 23, 67, 81, 96, 127, 146, 157, 160, 176; Dr. ii. 133
Locke, John, 59, 131; ii. 47
Lockhart, Sir William, 71 and *note*, 123; ii. 15, 32, 64, 81, 102
Long, Sir Robert, 104 and *note*, 106, 111, 117, 127
Loof, Van Tromp springs his, 37
Lowder, Sir John, 83
Lynch, Sir Thomas, Governor of Jamaica, 92
Lyra, Don Emanuel de, ii. 46
Lytcot, Giles, 54

Magennis, Richard, 28
Man, Mr. ii. 114
Mariner, Capt. 178
Martel, M. 49, 50, 61, 168, 189; ii. 1, 11, 20, 69
Mason, Sir Richard, 23
Maynard, Consul at Lisbon, 122
Mazarin, Cardinal, 138
Mead, a quaker, ii. 15
Meers, Sir Thomas, 34, 106, 117; ii. 44
Merricke, William, John, 89
Merson, William, 54
Middleton, Earl of, 149
Miller, Sir John, 66
Milward, Mr. 28, 34, 46; Judge, ii. 136
Modena, Duke of, 131, 138, 142, 165; Princess of, 182; ii. 4 *note*, 36, 48 and *note*, 58, 63, 84, 106, 132
Modiford, 122 and *note*, 125; ii. 141
Monmouth, Duke of, 28, 40, 64, 70, 91, 95, 99, 105, 108, 118, 125, 136, 140, 188, 193; ii. 12, 20, 72, 90, 122, 152
Montague, Mr. 5, 164, 176, 179 and *note*, 187, 197; ii. 35, 63, 71, 89; Sir Sydney, Master of Requests to James I. 42; Ralph, 169
Monterey, Comte de, 132, 177; ii. 81
Morgan, Sir Thomas, 3, 7, 46, 61, 95, 132; a buccaneer, ii. 47 and *note*
Morland, Sir Samuel, 4, 48 and *note*, 148
Mountney, Richard, 54
Mulgrave, Earl of, 27, 41, 72 and *note*, 121 and *note*, 145 and *note*, 171
Munday, Capt. 169, 177, 181
Murray, Sir Robert, first President of the Royal Society, 85 and *note*, 94
Musgrave, Sir Christopher, 118; ii. 38 and *note*, 51, 60, 66, 114
Muting time or moulting time, 30

Narbrough, Capt. 8, 17, 19; ii. 21; Sir John, ii. 46, 81
Neile, Sir Paul, 22; ii. 71
Newborough, Duke of, 13; ii. 109; Duchess of, 122, 131
Newcombe, Thomas, 8, 29 and *note*, 76, 103, 139, 172; ii. 30, 161
Newton, Sir John, ii. 39
Nicholson, Sir John, ii. 98
Noel, Lady Elizabeth, 176 and *note*
Norfolk, Duke of, ii. 139 and *note*, 144
North, Sir Francis, ii. 70 and *note*
Northumberland, Countess of, 42 and *note*, 164, 169, 179, 186; ii. 99
Norwich, Earl of, Earl Marshal, 26 and *note*, 41
Norwood, Colonel, 33, 149

O'Brien, Lady Catharine, 1 and *note*, 16, 98, 105, 118, 121, 126, 132, 141, 147, 160, 166, 175, 194; ii. 5, 22, 30, 37, 86; Lord, 35, 139; ii. 100, 145, 149

Ogle, Lord, 78, 101 and *note*
Oldbury, or Oldenburg, John, 192, 194; Henry, secretary to Royal Society, ii. 7
Ormond, Duke of, 15, 32, 48, 56, 57, 61, 62, 77, 79, 81, 93, 95, 99, 103, 149; ii. 25, 56, 92, 120, 143, 152
Orrery, Earl of, 7 and *note*
Osborne, Sir Thomas, 2, 4, 6, 10, 34, 43, 48, 50, 51, 56, 57, 62, 64, 66; Lord (probably a mistake for Dunblaine), 90, 99, 157
Ossory, Earl of, 20, 26, 29, 44, 50, 72 and *note*, 84, 170, 178, 186, 191; ii. 8, 20, 87, 125
Ottley, Mr. 46
Otway, Sir John, 184; ii. 119
Oughton, Thomas, 192
Overbury, Walter, 35; ii. 83, 132, 116
Oxford, Diana Countess of, ii. 21

Packer, Philip, 40
Page, Mr. 191; ii. 58, 86
Pakington, Sir John, ii. 71
Panton, Colonel, 24
Parker, Dr. 28
Paston, Sir Robert, 149 and *note*, 156
Patrick, Father, 4, 6; ii. 26 and *note*, 30
Paulden, Captain, ii. 127
Peg, Catharine, 79; ii. 35
Pepys, Samuel, 47, 50, 51, 56, 75, 149, 182; ii. 5, 35, 118
Perrincheif, Dr. ii. 3
Perwick, William, 4, 10, 192; ii. 5
Peterborough, Earl of, 13 and *note*, 27, 54, 122, 131, 139, 144, 149, 157, 164, 180; ii. 4, 21, 36, 48, 58, 106, 150 and *note*
Petre, Lord, ii. 145
Pett, Mr. 128
Peyte, Mr. killed by a highwaymen, 3
Pierce, steals a country girl, 80
Pierpoint, Mr. ii. 114
Player, Sir Thomas, 32, 82, 114; ii. 17, 54, 55 and *note*, 69, 113
Poems:—
  Advice to a Painter, ii. 2 and *note*, 26
  The Dream, Observations on the Coffee Houses in Covent Garden, 146 and *note*
Povey, Thomas, 149; ii. 5
Power, Lord, 28 and *note*
Powis, Earl of, ii. 145
Powle, Henry, ii. 51, 59 and *note*
Poyntz, Captain, ii. 2
Pratt, Sir George, ii. 118
Prittiman, William, 22
Prorogation, Short, ii. 51 and *note*
Puckle, Mr. 78, 85, 89, 100, 102, 136
Purcell, Thomas, 157
Pyles, Captain, 177

Quérouaille, Madlle. de la, Duchess of Portsmouth, 74, 169, 127, 130, 150, 157, 165, 169, 184, 193; ii. 18 and *note*, 35, 62
Ramsden, William, 63
Ramsey, Sir Andrew, ii. 98
Ranelagh, Lord, 98; ii. 157
Ravenscroft, Mr. 87 and *note*, 94, 100
Rawdon, Sir George, ii. *note* 70
Rechle, Mr. 17
Reeves, Sir William, 93, 162, 168
Retz, Cardinal de, 13
Richards, John, 110, 193; ii. 17, 34, 50, 84, 124, 143, 146
Richmond, Duke of, ii. 22 and *note*, 35; Duchess of, 71 and *note*
Roberts, Lord, Lord Prlvy Seal, 29, 108, 137, 140, 143, 164, 172
Robinson, Sir John, Lieut. of the Tower, 31 and *note*, 69, 113; ii. 17, 57, 141
Ross, J. 57 and *note*, 156; Thomas, ii. 28
Rupert, Prince, 9, 29, 39, 49, 51, 74, 90, 94, 119, 121, 143, 149, 171, 183, 189; ii. 11, 20, 56
Russell, Colonel, 3, 4, 7, 12
Ruvigny, M. ii. 106
Ruyter, de, 32, 78, 171, 186; ii. 1

Sackville, Capt. Edward, 28
Sadlington, Capt. 19
St. Alban's, Earl of, 22, 73
St. George, Sir Thomas, 41, 73
St. John, Lord, ii. 52 and *note*, 114, 157
Salinas, Don Bernardo de, 96 and *note*, 102, 106, 116, 127, 132
Salisbury, Earl of, ii. 157
Sandford, Mr. of the Heralds' Office, 26, 73
Sandwich, Earl of, 42; ii. 4
Savile, Henry, 23 and *note*
Sawyer, Sir Edmund, 31
Scaramouchio, Signor, 180 and *note*; ii. 16
Scheen, Sir John, 85
Schomberg, Marshal, 37, 38, 42, 47, 65, 71, 73, 75, 79, 84, 88, 91, 94, 99, 104, 119, 121, 125, 127, 143, 153, 158; ii. 20, 42

Scott, Colonel, 85
Segar, Sir William, 41
Seymer, Mr. 146
Seymour, Sir Edward, Speaker, 10, 50, 56; ii. 51 and *note*
Shaftesbury, Earl of, ii. 21, 29, 62, 79, 92, 157, 158
Shannon, Lady, 149 and *note*
Shaw, Sir John, 173
Sheldon, Mr. 4; Sir Joseph, 23, 70, 82, 86, 111, 178; ii. 41, 113, 141, 148; Gilbert, Archbishop of Canterbury, 109 and *note*
Sherburne, Capt. 45
Sherwin, Mr. 15, 23
Shirley, Sir Robert, 25, 34, 42
Shrewsbury, Earl of, ii. 106, 120, 136
Sidney, Mr. 4
Skelton, Capt. ii. 71, 102
Skinner, Mr. 9
Smith, Sir Jeremy, 28, 149; Sir John, 53, 69, 83, 113, 118, 120, 135
Sondes, Sir George, ii. *note* 3
Southampton, Earl of, 136
Southwell, Sir Robert, 138, 169; ii. 32, 81, 128, 142
Spragg, Sir Edward, 18, 26, 36, 37, 43, 46, 131, 168, 171, 178, 186, 192; ii. 4
Sprat, Dr. Bishop of Rochester, ii. 131 and *note*
Stamford, Earl of, 192 and *note*
Stanhope, Mr. ii. 71
Staples, Mr. 95
Stockmann, Captain, 194
Strangways, Colonel, 32, 63 and *note*, 83
Strickland, Sir Thomas, 28, 34
Strode, Colonel, 87
Stubb, Dr. 176
Suffolk, Earl of, 54
Sunderland, Duke of, 9 and *note*, 51, 57, 73, 79, 150, 179; ii. 4, 11, 71, 90
Swaddell, John, 44
Sylvius, Sir Gabriel, ii. 142, 156, 158

Talbot, Peter, Archbp. of Dublin, 24, 68; Colonel, 42; ii. 26, 30; Sir Gilbert, ii. 51 and *note*, 68 and *note*, 72, 105, 118, 126, 133, 140, 147, 156, 158
Taylor of Harwich, Mr. 23, 163
Teague, ii. 24 and *note*
Temple, Sir William, ii. 138, 144
Thomas, Mr. 83; Sir Robert, ii. 24, 52, 114 and *note*, 157
Thomond, Earl of, 1
Thompson, Mr. 114
Thurles, Lady, 15
Thynne, Mr. ii. 54, 77
Trelawney, Sir Jonathan, 68 and *note*
Tromp, Van, "springs his loof," 37
Tucker, Charles, 192
Tulse, Sir Henry, ii. 18 and *note*
Turner, Sir William, 114
Turnour, Sir Edward, Attorney-General to Duke of York, ii. 54
Tweedale, Earl of, ii. 98

Vane, Sir Walter, 61 and *note*, 101; ii. 20; Colonel 88; Lord 99, 101 and *note*, 117, 119, 166; ii. 21
Vernon, James, 105 and *note*, 179; ii. 2, 12, 20, 23, 122, 153
Vic, Sir Henry de, ii. 142
Villiers, Edward, 21, 22 and *note*, 40, 136
Vyner, Sir Robert, 23, 40, 78, 82; ii. 113, 148; Sir George 100, 114, 118, 150

Walden, Sir Lionel, ii. 110 and *note*
Walker, Sir Edward, Garter King of Arms, 27 and *note*, 41, 53
Warre, Francis, Dame Unton, 22
Warwick, Earl of, 192; ii. 14; Mr. 123 and *note*
Waterman, Sir George, ii. 18 and *note*, 55
Waters, Captain, ii. 83
Watkins, Mr. ii. 13
Watson, Captain, 67; ii. 23
Wauchope, Mr. 117
Webb, William, 23
Weekes, Luke, 36, 70, 82, 115; ii. 18, 105
Wells, Mrs. 104
Werden, Sir John, 49, 51, 56
Westcombe, Sir Martin, 81, 111, 122, 136, 140
Wetwang, Captain, 9
Wharton, Sir Ralfe, 28; Michael, ii. 136
Wheeler, Sir Charles, ii. 62 and *note*, 115, 127, 135
White, Captain, 19
Whitey, Colonel, 112
Whitley, Col. Roger, ii. 75 and *note*, 93, 108, 132
Widdrington, Lord, 26 and *note*, 28, 132

Wilcox, a brewer, 113
Williams, Capt. Henry, 151
Williamson, *passim*
Willoughby, Lord, 92 and *note*, 95, 98, 148; ii. 3
Windham, Col. Francis, 193; Thomas, ii. 71
Winter, Capt. 66
Wiseman, Sir Robert, ii. 77, 108
Wolseley, Robert, 117
Woodroffe, Dr. 169
Worcester, Marquis of, 42, 101 and *note*, 106, 115
Worsley, Dr. 59, 67; ii. 47
Wotton, Chas. Henry Lord, 136
Wren, Christopher, 165
Writtle, Richard, 165
Wyche, Sir Peter, 27 and *note*, 157, 188; ii. 149
Wyndham, Col. Francis, 89; Thomas, 104; Charles, 136

Yard, Robert, 1 *et seq.*, 132; ii. 30, 79, 148
Yarmouth, Viscount, 154 and *note*
York, Duke of, 67, 99, 102, 118, 122, 131; ii. 15, 49, 80, 106, 156
Young, Mr. 88, 117

INDEX TO THE INTRODUCTION.

Address, to Charles II. xi.
Arlington, Earl of, i., ii., v., vi., vii., viii.
Arnheim, Utrecht, &c., taking of, viii.
Arundel, Lord, of Wardour, i., ii.
Ashley, Lord, ii., iii, v., vi., vii.
Attempt to seize Dutch vessel, v.

Bath, Marquis of, ix.
Bellings, Sir Richard, i., ii.
Berkeley, of Stratton, Lord, xi.
Bridgman, Sir Orlando, ii., vi., ix.
Buckingham, Duke of, ii., iii., v., vi., viii., x., xi.
Bushby, Dr. 14

Calamy, Edmund, ii. *note*
Clifford, Lord, Commissioner of the Treasury, i., ii. and *note*, iii., vi., vii., xi., xiii., xvii.
Colbert, M. French Ambassador, i., iii., iv., v., x., xii.
Coventry, Henry, Secretary of State, vii., xi.

Danby, Lord, xvi.
Declaration of, Indulgence to Protestant Dissenters and Roman Catholics, v.; cancelled, xii.

Exchequer, Stop of, v.

Halifax, Lord, viii.

Jenkins, Sir Leoline, xiii.

King, Archbishop, ii. *note*

Langbaine, Dr. xiv.
Lauderdale, Duke of, ii., iii,, v., vi.

Monmouth, Duke of, viii.

Nicholas, Sir Edward, xv.

O'Brien, Lady Catherine, xv.
Orange, Prince of, ix.

Primi, Abbé, ii. *note*

Richmond, Duke of, xv.
Rupert, Prince, vi.

St. Evremont, xiii.
Sunderland, Earl of, xiii., xv.

Thomond, Earl of, xv.
Thynne, Sir Thomas, ix.
Tilson, Richard, xiv.
Treaty, Secret, between Charles II. and Louis XIV. i., ii. and *note*, iii. and *note*, *et seq.*
Trevor, Sir John, iii., vi.
Tyrconnel, Lord, ii. *note*

Williamson, Sir Joseph, xiv., *et seq.*

York, Duke of, ii., vi., viii., x., xi., xii. xvi.

WESTMINSTER:
PRINTED BY NICHOLS AND SONS,
25, PARLIAMENT STREET.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

OF

THE CAMDEN SOCIETY,

READ AT THE GENERAL MEETING

ON THE 4TH JUNE 1873.

THE Council of the Camden Society elected on the 2nd of May 1872 have deeply to regret the loss of the following Members of the Council who have died during the past year :—

JOHN WALTER K. EYTON, Esq.
Sir THOMAS E. WINNINGTON, Bart.

Mr. Eyton, in addition to his attainments as a Bibliographer, was perhaps unrivalled in his good taste on all matters connected with printing, binding, &c., and of his judgment in such matters the Society has frequently received the benefit.

In Sir Thomas E. Winnington the Society has lost not only one who had frequently been elected on its Councils, but who had placed the manuscript treasures of Stanford Court most freely at their disposal. It will be remembered that the Roll of Bishop Swinfield, so admirably edited by the late Rev. John Webb, was the property of Sir Thomas Winnington, as also that Dingley's History from Marble was reproduced by Photography from an illustrated MS. in his library.

Sir Frederic Madden, whose death the Council have also to regret, was one of the earliest and most active promoters of the Society, and though owing to the numerous calls upon his time, official and otherwise, he was not a frequent attendant, his valuable judgment and opinion were always at the service of the Society.

In these gentlemen many of the Council have lost not only valued colleagues but esteemed personal friends.

The following Members of the Society, they are sorry to add, have also died within the same period:—

Algernon Sydney Aspland, Esq.
Matthew D. Hill, Esq.
Hon. Lady Langdale.
Sir Frederic Madden, K.H., F.R.S.

The following have been the Books issued to the Subscribers of the past year:—

I. A true Relation of the Life and Death of The Right Reverend Father in God William Bedell, Lord Bishop of Kilmore in Ireland. Edited from a MS. in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, by Thomas Wharton Jones, F.R.S.

This volume, which was in the hands of members before the last General Meeting, is a work interesting not only from the light it throws on the working of the Church in Ireland at a most important period of its history, but also from the personal character of the subject of the biography.

II. The Mayor of Bristol's Calendar. By Robert Ricart, Town Clerk, Bristol, temp. Edward IV., with a continuation subsequently added at various dates. Edited by Miss Lucy Toulmin Smith.

This volume illustrates the municipal antiquities of one of the most important cities in the West of England.

III. Debates in the House of Commons in 1625. Edited, from a MS. in the Library of Sir Rainald Knightley, Bart., by Samuel Rawson Gardiner.

This volume gives additional means for the right understanding of the origin of the quarrel between Charles I. and the House of Commons, and supplies us with new facts relating to no less a person than Sir John Eliot.

The Council is happy to add that the final volume of the Trevelyan

Papers is now in the hands of the Members, and, referring to the auditors' Report, the Members will find that through the liberality of Sir Walter and Sir Charles Trevelyan the cost of same, including paper and binding, has been nearly defrayed by them.

The Books proposed for issue during the year 1873-4 are :—

I. A Military Memoir of Col. Birch. Edited by the late Rev. JOHN WEBB and the Rev. T. W. WEBB. [*Nearly ready.*]

II. Letters addressed from London to Sir Joseph Williamson while Plenipotentiary at the Congress of Cologne in the year 1673. Edited by W. D. CHRISTIE, C.B. [*In the Press.*]

III. A Chronicle of English History from the accession of Henry VII. to the end of the first year of Elizabeth. Edited, from a MS. in the library of Major General Lord Henry Percy, by W. D. HAMILTON.

The following Books have been added, in the course of the past year, to the list of suggested Publications :—

A Chronicle of Gregory Skinner, Mayor of London temp. Henry VI., including a Copy of the Poem of the Siege of Rouen. To be edited by JAMES GAIRDNER.

A Selection from a Collection of Letters written by Dr. Prideaux, Dean of Norwich, to Secretary Ellis, 1674-1722, discovered amongst the Papers purchased by the British Museum from Lord Macclesfield. To be edited by E. M. THOMPSON, Assistant Keeper of MSS. at the British Museum.

Selections from the Despatches of the Venetian Ambassadors in England, 1623-1625. To be translated and edited, from copies taken by Mr. Rawdon Brown from the originals in the Archives of Venice, by SAMUEL RAWSON GARDINER.

The Council have great pleasure in acknowledging that the Society is indebted to Mr. Rawdon Brown for great courtesy and valuable help on several occasions during the past and former years.

On the 4th December, 1872, the President acquainted the Council that he had received a letter from Mr. Thoms resigning the post of Secretary to the Society. The Council at once directed a Resolution to be entered on the Minutes in the following words :—

> That the Council, in reluctantly accepting the resignation by Mr. THOMS of the office of Secretary, which from the commencement of the Society he has

held, desire to place on record their sense of the invaluable services which during that long period he has rendered to the Society, and of the zeal, courtesy, and kindness which he has uniformly displayed in the performance of no light duties. The Council desire to assure Mr. Thoms that he carries with him the cordial respect and regard of every one of his colleagues.

The Council feel assured that the Society at large will cordially endorse the expressions of respect and esteem for Mr. Thoms which they have made use of, and unite with them in recording their sense of the great benefits that have accrued to the Society from the post of Secretary having been held during so long a period by a gentleman possessing in an eminent degree every qualification needful for the complete performance of the arduous duties entrusted to him.

Since the printing of this Report the Council has had to lament the loss of the late President of the Society, Sir William Tite. At a special meeting, summoned in consequence of this sad event, the Council directed the following Resolution to be entered on their Minutes:—

Resolved unanimously, that before proceeding to the business of the day the Council desires to record its sense of the great loss which the Society has sustained by the death of its lamented President, Sir William Tite, C.B., M.P., their recognition of the interest at all times taken by him in the welfare of the Society, and of the manner in which he signalized his election to the Presidentship by presenting to the Society that interesting volume, The Diary of John Manningham.

The Council feel certain that the Society will also wish to bear testimony to the cordial support their late President was ever ready to give in promoting the objects and interests of the Society.

By Order of the Council,

SAMUEL RAWSON GARDINER, Director.

ALFRED KINGSTON, Hon. Secretary.

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS.

We, the Auditors appointed to audit the Accounts of the Camden Society, report to the Society, that the Treasurer has exhibited to us an Account of the Receipts and Expenditure from the 1st of April 1872 to the 17th of April 1873, and that we have examined the said accounts, with the vouchers relating thereto, and find the same to be correct and satisfactory.

And we further report that the following is an Abstract of the Receipts and Expenditure during the period we have mentioned.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
To Balance of last year's account..	390	9	9
Received on account of Members whose Subscriptions were in arrear at last Audit	49	0	0
The like on account of Subscriptions due on the 1st of May, 1872....	271	0	6
The like on account of Subscriptions due on the 1st of May, 1873....	11	0	0
To two Compositions in lieu of Annual Subscription	20	0	0
One year's dividend on £466 3 1 3 per Cent. Consols, standing in the names of the Trustees of the Society, deducting Income Tax..	13	15	2
From Sir Walter and Sir Charles Trevelyan on account of printing Part III. of Trevelyan Papers	213	11	11
To Sale of the Publications of past years.....	36	6	6
To Sale of Promptorium Parvulorum (3 vols. in 1)	4	3	0
	£1,009	6	10

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Paid for printing 500 copies of Ricart's Bristol Calendar.....	51	0	9
Paid for printing 510 Photographs for ditto.....	11	16	8
Paid for binding 400 copies of ditto	14	8	0
Paid for printing 650 copies of the Trevelyan Papers, Part 3	186	7	6
Paid for binding 450 copies of ditto.....	18	0	0
Paid for sundry Transcripts, including, Venetian Dispatches, 1623 to 1626;—Of the Parliament of 1625;—Of the Duke of Buckingham's Correspondence;—Of Louis XIII. and of his Ambassadors and Ministers;—Of Sir Joseph Williamson's Correspondence, 1673; &c.	73	11	0
Paid Mr. H. Gough (further payment on account of General Index), making in all £400 to this date.....	50	0	0
Paid for Miscellaneous Printing.....	14	4	6
Paid for delivery and transmission of Books, with paper for wrappers, warehousing expenses (including Insurance)	20	6	8
Paid for Advertisements of the New Series, and of the last General Meeting	16	7	6
Charge on Irish Drafts	0	1	3
Paid cheque not presented in last year's Account	4	5	6
Paid for postages, collecting, country expenses, &c. ...	4	13	7
By Balance.....	544	3	11
	£1,009	6	10

And we, the Auditors, further state, that the Treasurer has reported to us, that through the liberality of Sir Walter Calverley Trevelyan, Bart. and of Sir Charles Edward Trevelyan, K.C.B. the entire cost of the Third Part of the Trevelyan Papers has been nearly defrayed, for the benefit of the Society, and that over and above the present balance of £544 3*s*. 11*d*. there are outstanding various subscriptions of Foreign Members, and of Members resident at a distance from London, which the Treasurer sees no reason to doubt will shortly be received.

Henry Hill.
W. E. Walmisley.

May 13, 1873.

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